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BIRTH.

On the 7th April, at Manila, the wife of H. D. C. JONES, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

On the 18th April, 1898 at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, by the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, M.A., ARTHUR FRANCIS BELLAMY BROWN, third son of the late Captain THOMAS J. BROWN, of Ipswich, to MARION MAUD EDITH, eldest daughter of JOHN J. PLUMMER, Esq., M.A., F.R.A.S., of Hongkong.

DEATHS.

At Kennedy Town Hospital, on the 20th April, of plague, WILLIAM FRANCIS, aged 3 years and 7 months, youngest son of EDWARD L. STAINFIELD, Second Engineer of the steamer *Hanoi*.

At Tientsin, on the 26th March, 1898, SARAH, widow of the late WILLIAM BELLINGHAM, aged 73 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The English mail of the 18th March arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Coromandel*, on the 16th April (29 days); the Canadian mail of the 29th March arrived, per C. P. steamer *Empress of India*, on the 20th April (31 days); and the American mail of the 23rd March arrived, per P. M. steamer *China*, on the 21st April (29 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

H.M. the German Emperor has conferred upon Dr. Stuebel, German Consul-General at Shanghai, the high distinction of the second class of the Royal Prussian Order of the Crown.

Lieut-General Basilio Augustin y Davila, the new Governor-General of the Philippines, arrived at Manila on the 9th April.

The Governor-General of the Philippines has recognised Mr. E. H. Rawson Walker, British Consul at Manila as in temporary charge of the United States Consulate at that port and of the United States Vice-Consulates at Cebu and Iloilo.

The Russian transport *Kherson* arrived at Singapore on the 8th April from Odessa with a large number of soldiers for Vladivostok. His Excellency M. Alexander Olarovsky, the first Minister of Russia to Bangkok, arrived by her and disembarked at Singapore.

From Shanghai papers we learn that an influential representative committee of all nationalities, with Sir Nicholas Hannea in the chair, had been formed to arrange for the reception of Prince Henry of Prussia by the general foreign community. It was proposed, with his assent, to entertain him at a tiffin at Cuang Su-ho's Garden on Tuesday, the 19th inst.

With reference to the new treaty port of Chinwan or Chiawang, about which there was some doubt at first as to its exact location, we are informed that it refers to one of the islands near Peitaiho, in the Gulf of Pechihli, called Chin-wang-tao or Island of the Prince of Chin. The tradition is that in the Han dynasty, between the first and second centuries of the present era, one of the Emperor's sons who had been created Chin Wang or Prince of Chin, or Shensi province—Jhin being the ancient name of Shensi and still used at the present day—had to seek refuge in this island from his enemies, thus giving it his title.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The following movements in the Chinese Customs service are reported:—Mr. Unwin, Commissioner at Chinkiang, is transferred to Soochow, and is to be succeeded at Chinkiang by Mr. Faragó. Mr. J. C. Johnston is promoted to the rank of Deputy Commissioner at Shanghai. It is believed that Mr. E. H. Grimani, who arrived at Shanghai on 13th April by the *City of Peking*, goes to take charge of the Customs at Kiukiang, succeeding Mr. F. A. Morgan, who is transferred to Swatow. News has come of the promotion to the rank of Deputy Commissioner of Messrs. Du Luca, Mayers, and Wolf; and the announcement of more similar promotions is expected.

The *Echo de Chine* announces that the treaty between France and China by which the demands of the former Power are all conceded was definitely signed at 7 p.m. on the 10th April. It offers to M. Dubail its most sincere congratulations on the diplomatic victory he has achieved, and undoubtedly these congratulations are deserved. We (*N. C. Daily News*) also learn that the Chinese Emperor has authorised the employment of French capital in the exploitation of the quicksilver mines in Kueichow, and that M. de Marteau has been granted a concession for the construction of metallurgic works in Hunan. All these concessions, to whatever Power they are granted, are to be heartily applauded, for they mean the extension of communications, China's most pressing need, and an assured improvement in the condition of the people. The more foreign capital that is brought into China the better.

The Russian cruiser *Gremiastchy* arrived at Shanghai on the 16th April from Chemulpo. M. Speyer, ex-Russian Minister arrived by her, en route to Europe, and also M. Alexieff, late Financial Adviser to the Korean Government, who, after a stay of a few days in Shanghai, will proceed to Nagasaki and thence to Tokyo, to take up his appointment as Financial Agent for the Imperial Russian Government in Japan.

A rising took place in the town of Cebu on the 3rd April. From the reports in the *Comercio* we gather that the Governor sent information by steamer to Iloilo and Iligan, and from Iloilo it was telegraphed to Manila. On the 5th April fifty Cazadores arrived from Iloilo and three hundred men of the 71st and 72nd Regiments from Iligan, and on the 7th the man-of-war *Don Juan de Austria* and a merchant vessel with troops on board arrived from Manila. The streets were then soon cleared and the military commander intended to send out columns to scour the island and disperse any bands of rebels that might be found.

In an article on Russian designs in Manchuria the *N. C. Daily News* says:—In some ways Sir Claude MacDonald has been more successful than has appeared to us in Shanghai, for the Russians have now consented to allow the Chinese to build their own line in their own territory to Moukden. Russia retains, indeed, in her own hand the more important line, that from Petuné to Port Arthur; but it is something gained that China is allowed to employ English engineers and English capital in Manchuria at all, a course which Russia had previously forbidden her to adopt. It is our display of force which has gained this point, for, as we have said all along, Russia is not prepared to fight; and if the Foreign Office at home had been firm, England could have insisted on the line from Petuné south being built by China to the Chinese gauge, with such foreign assistance as the Chinese chose to employ; and there is no doubt that to Mr. Kinder and his associates, who have built the only railway that is being operated in China, the work would have been confided.

We understand that M. Dautremere, French Consul at Hankow, has decided, with the chivalry of his nation, not to make the English owners of a part of the so-called French Concession at Hankow sue him in the French Consular Court, but to sue them in the British Consular Court for the sum of Tls. 200,000 or thereabouts, the precise ground of the claim not being yet stated, as far as we understand. M. Dautremere's action is the more chivalrous as he will not only have to give security for costs but he will have to submit to the jurisdiction of the British Court. The auction of land on the so-called French Concession duly came off as advertised, on 7th April. Although it was supposed to be a public auction, certain prominent members of the British community were excluded from it by the French Municipal policeman, under the orders of the French Consul, who himself bid for one of the lots which one of the excluded Britishers was anxious to buy. Two of the lots alleged to belong to Mr. Sassoon were sold at Tls. 9,200 and Tls. 6,000, respectively, and the total sales were believed to amount to about Tls. 40,000. The question of the real ownership of the land will, we understand, be tried in the Supreme Court at Shanghai.—*N. C. Daily News*.

RUSSIA IN MANCHURIA.

Years ago it was predicted that the time would come when Russia would actively renew the forward and southward movement inaugurated in 1860, when she acquired the vast tract of Manchuria now known as the Ussuri Territory of Eastern Siberia. So soon as the Great Trans-Siberian Railway was projected, it became clear that that period was within measurable distance. Within the last two years events have marched at the double quick, and at the present moment, by the acquisition of Port Arthur, Russia is practically mistress of Manchuria, the ancient heritage of the Tatsing Dynasty. It is a signal indication of the utter helplessness of China that she should, without striking a blow, have surrendered such a territory. The Emperor KWANG SU is, however, a weak and nerveless creature who has neither the will of an autocrat nor the powers of a sovereign, while his Ministers are a corrupt and cowardly group of worn out and ignorant officials, lacking alike the head to devise and the ability to strike a blow for the preservation of the independence of the country. Nor can the Chinese Government appeal to the friendship of foreign states to aid them in their difficulty. They have, by their repeated breaches of faith and by their undisguised dislike of and contempt for Western people alienated the sympathies of Western powers. The letters of the Peking correspondent of *The Times*, who has been travelling along the route of the projected Trans-Manchurian Railway ought to enlighten the British public and Government as to the true aims and the actual doings of Russia in that region. His letter of the 20th December, published in *The Times* of the 12th March, is most instructive. He there very plainly shows how the Russification of Manchuria has already actually commenced, and the coming absorption is not even evoking remonstrance. The rule of the mandarin is so much disliked that the Russians are being welcomed rather than held in distrust and aversion, as is frequently the case with foreign intruders.

It must be conceded that the Russians manage their negotiations with great tact, and succeed in gaining their ends in a most remarkable manner. Thus, as the correspondent above alluded to shows, the railway has been termed the Chinese Eastern Railway, a title ingeniously devised to "save the face" of the Chinese Government. Shares can only be held by Russians and by Chinese, but as a matter of fact every share is held by Russians, the Chinese having no pecuniary interest in the line whatever. It is to be built by Russian engineers, protected by Russian soldiers, with Russian capital, and with Russian material, and it will run through territory which though now Chinese will, we believe, cease to remain so long before the term (80 years) is up when the Chinese Government will acquire the right to purchase the line. The railway is, moreover, to be financed by the Russo-Chinese Bank, the capital of which is exclusively Russian, and they retain the exclusive control, management, and profits, the Chinese share being limited to the provision of clients, compradores, under clerks, and servants. The railway is to be completed and in full running order before 28th August, 1903, but so far the surveys have not been carried out, and the route is not wholly decided upon. It will, however, pass through a fertile and increasingly populous district, which will atone for the engineering difficulties which have to be encountered. At Tsitsihar, an important city and capital of the province of Heh Lung Kiang, through

which the railway will pass, Russian railway offices are now being built, a Russian merchant has already established an agency, and Russian troops march through the town with an air of possession which powerfully impresses the Chinese. The correspondent goes on to describe the country between Tsitsihar and Petuna, a distance of 180 miles. He says the entire country has been under the plough. The "league-long furrow" is never ending. A few years ago, he adds, "this country was a waste, but the stream of immigration has been unceasing. Where there were a few mud huts clustered round the post station there are now thriving villages, with countless busy inns catering for a traffic that is always becoming greater. The soil is rich alluvial." After reaching Petuna, a city of 60,000 souls, the numbers of which are steadily and rapidly increasing, the country, southwards to Kirin is among the most fertile and most thickly peopled in the Celestial Empire. The *Times* correspondent says.—"It is the granary of Manchuria. Its harvests already supply the mills of Siberia; its wheat will yet compete in the grain markets of the world. Petuna, from its position on the navigable Sungari, will be an important depot of the railway, and Russians are stationed here in considerable force." The city of Kirin is described by this correspondent as the second greatest city in Manchuria, and from his account it will at no distant date take rank before Moukden, the capital. He says Kirin is beautifully situated on a bend of the Sungari, and its wealth is enormous. "No advantage of position or environment is wanting to justify the Russians in selecting this as the chief centre of the Trans-Manchurian Railway." At Kirin the railway will cross the Sungari and go east to Omoso, 120 miles distant, and then north east to Ninguta, 100 miles further. From Ninguta to Poltafka, on the Russian frontier, a practicable route has been discovered, and this is the only section of the line of which even the preliminary surveys have been completed. Its length is 193 miles, and the principal engineering difficulty is a tunnel 1,400 feet in length.

What is most remarkable is the manner in which the natives acquiesce in the virtual change of rulers incessantly going on. The *Times* correspondent states that at Kirin the Russification of the city is proceeding most obviously. Samovars are seen in every inn. Russian engineers, escorted by Cossacks, drive in tarantasses through the crowded streets. "The Russians," he adds, "have little more to gain in Manchuria. They have the right to mine, the right to build houses and import machinery for railway and mining use. They have the right to unrestricted navigation of inland waters, and they have the right to protect themselves by force, independent of Chinese. And with it all the Chinese are content, and they are prepared to welcome any further change which would remove them from the exactions of their own officials." Another fact not without significance as showing how entirely the Russians have their own way, he mentions that salt is imported through Poltafka and Vladivostok into Manchuria free of duty, although in other parts of China this article is a Government monopoly, and is specially prohibited, by the Burmo-Chinese convention, from entering Yunnan from Burmah. Russia has for many years been preparing the way for her ascendancy both in Manchuria and Mongolia, in both of which countries she has proceeded cautiously, treating the natives well and teaching them to compare the

liberal rule of the Czar with the oppression of the mandarins. So long as the people are governed justly they care little whether their rulers are seated at St. Petersburg or Peking, but they are naturally impressed by a show of strength, and no doubt they have come to believe that the Russian hand is stronger than the grip of the Son of Heaven. The Russians are now beginning to reap where they have for so many years been steadily sowing, and we believe that it would be both vain and impolitic to attempt to check their advance in this direction. It is now the business of the British Government to see to it that, while Russia fulfils her destiny in the North, England is not squeezed out of her heritage in the south. There has, no doubt, been a policy of drift in the past with regard to the Far East, but recent events have brought into the strongest relief the fact that if our markets in China are to be preserved open in the future unflinching vigilance and unfaltering decision will have to be exercised.

SIR WILLIAM ROBINSON ON THE RUSSIAN ADVANCE.

SIR WILLIAM ROBINSON, our late Governor, has been expressing himself to a Reuter's interviewer upon the extension of Hongkong and Russian designs in Manchuria. What he had to say about the extension of our frontiers was calculated to produce a good impression and to further the project with which His Excellency so cordially associated himself during his administration of the government here. To us in Hongkong his remarks contain nothing new, but will be appreciated as a concise and able statement of the case on behalf of the colony calculated to secure sympathy and support at home.

Sir WILLIAM's views on the projects of Russia in Manchuria coincide in the main with those that have been frequently expressed in this column, both in connection with the recent crisis and for many years past. His Excellency does not believe that Russia's policy in that part of the world is necessarily inimical to us. This is a view of the case that is calculated to serve as a wholesome corrective to the Jingo spirit that has of late taken possession of the *Times* and many other journals. Sir WILLIAM went on to say that "so long as we have free trade Russia's action will not only not hamper us, but will even be in some ways helpful." We would go still further and say that even if ultimately a differential tariff should be established the substitution of a civilised and orderly government for the present state of insecurity and anarchy would be more than an equivalent advantage for British trade. The policy of the open door is an excellent one for the British Government to work for, but unless we are prepared to step in ourselves and either by direct annexation or the exercise of strong and steadily maintained influence ensure the orderly government of the territory to which the open door gives access we cannot reasonably object to other governments doing so. There is a good deal of wisdom in the following remarks made by a Mr. BENNETT at the recent meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce:—"He must say he was very dubious with regard to this 'policy of the open door.' There was a danger of that phrase becoming a mere shibboleth. He was convinced that the assurances they received from Russia and France were not worth the paper they were written on. They had had instances of the value of such assurances in the case of Russia

"in Central Asia and France in Madagascar. In each of these cases we had been promised 'an open door,' but in each case the door had been slammed in our face. The same, he was afraid, would occur in the case of China. It seemed to him to be a safer policy for this country to create an open door of its own. We had gone out of our way to proclaim that we sought no acquisition of territory. But his own idea was that a division of China on a fair and equitable basis was far better than the 'policy of the open door.' We had, of course, no right to say that other Powers should be prevented from acquiring territory in China, seeing that we had ourselves taken forcible possession of land in all parts of the world, but what we had a right to do was to insist that we should have a similar right to seize part of China for ourselves."

KWANGCHAUWAN AND THE TRADE OF SOUTH CHINA.

The lease of Kwangchauwan to France is confirmed, and the lessees will doubtless enter into possession forthwith. The port has been acquired primarily as a coaling station, but will presumably be opened to trade, in which case it is calculated to exercise a considerable influence on the west coast traffic from Hongkong and Macao. There is a considerable trade carried on by junks with Chikhom and other places in the Kochow and Laichow districts, which will probably now be transferred to steamers running from Hongkong to Kwongchauwan, which place will form a convenient distributing centre, and with the improved transport facilities the trade may be expected to show a large and rapid increase, to the advantage of this colony but to the disadvantage of Macao, which will be left out in the cold. A large proportion of the existing trade is in the hands of Macao merchants, who import foreign goods from Hongkong and re-export them to Kochow, Chikhom, and other places in the neighbourhood of Kwongchauwan. With the establishment of direct steam communication between Hongkong and Kwongchauwan the trade conducted via Macao will inevitably languish.

The Ng River, which discharges at Kwongchauwan, has several important tributaries, and small steamers or launches will no doubt be shortly plying upon those waterways, promoting trade in a naturally wealthy district. It is not unlikely, also, that the French, when once they are installed at Kwongchauwan, will begin to agitate for a railway connecting that place with some point on the West River above the rapids, which would increase the trade on the upper waters of that stream. In the construction of such a line there would, we believe, be comparatively few engineering difficulties to be overcome and the line would command an amount of traffic that would ensure its success as a commercial enterprise. While all this would, for the time being at all events, be good for the trade of Hongkong, it would not be agreeable to British interests that our trade with the districts in question should be entirely subject to French influence, with the possibility of the imposition of a hostile tariff at some future period. To meet this the Chinese should be urged to themselves construct, or to permit a foreign company to construct, lines of railway from Pakhoi and Canton to Nanning.

The appointment of Commander Hastings to be Acting Police Magistrate and Coroner is gazetted.

DELETERIOUS LIQUORS.

The campaign against the cheap liquors sold in this colony seems likely to collapse owing to the discovery that the liquors in question have been greatly maligned and that their cheapness and consequent large consumption, not their deleterious quality, is the origin of the havoc wrought by them amongst our soldiers and sailors. It was understood that the cheap whisky, gin, or brandy retailed in the grog shops consisted largely of raw potato spirit containing fusel oil in great quantities. Dr. STEDMAN, however, told the meeting of Justices on Saturday that Mr. BROWNE, the Government Analyst, had informed him that he could not by analysis detect any deleterious principles in the cheap whiskies and gins sold in the colony, and that they were cheap because they were not natural spirits, but manufactured spirits, and, so far as he could tell, they were manufactured with more or less pure proof spirit with small proportions of whisky or gin to give them a flavour, and that they contained less fusel oil and far less furfuraldehyde than some more expensive liquors. Unless taken in excess liquors such as those described could not be held to be injurious, except in so far as alcoholic liquors in general may be held to be injurious. The matter is entirely one of analysis, and the result of the analysis being as stated by Dr. STEDMAN there appears to be nothing more to be done, unless some means could be devised of diminishing the quantity consumed by increasing the price or by prohibiting altogether the import of cheap manufactured spirits. Mr. BROWNE, however, according to Dr. STEDMAN, did not let his investigation rest with scientific analysis, but went on to put the effects of the liquors to the test by consuming them at his own table. While entertaining the greatest respect for Mr. BROWNE's professional qualifications as an analyst, we do not think his opinion as to the effects of the liquors as tested by his own consumption can be of any value. To judge of this it would be necessary to know what quantity he consumed and in what proportion he diluted it. Half a wine glass full in a tumbler of soda water would not afford a test of the intoxicating power of any particular liquor. If Mr. BROWNE would on one day see how many bo'sun's nips of cheap whisky it took to make him drunk and allow some friend to describe the characteristics of the intoxication, and then on another day repeat the experiment with one of the reputable and favourite brands of whisky, we would have material for a comparison that would be of practical utility. Raw spirits not only produce intoxication more rapidly than mature spirits, but the intoxication partakes of the nature of frenzy, under the influence of which the sufferer is frequently incited to the commission of crimes of violence. It would be rather hard on Mr. BROWNE to ask him to conduct in his own person such a practical experiment as we have described, but as a scientific man we think he will recognise the justice of our doubts as to the value of the very mild experiments he has made at his own table.

The result of the meeting of Justices on Saturday was that the Commission was requested to take the evidence of the Government Analyst and report to a future meeting. There can, however, be little doubt as to the accuracy of the report given by Dr. STEDMAN of the Analyst's views, for one scientific man would not be likely to derive a false impression of another scientific man's views expressed in conversation or to convey a false impression in repeating those

views. For all practical purposes, therefore what was stated by Dr. STEDMAN at the meeting on Saturday may be held to be conclusive. Mr. FRANCIS also made an important statement, namely, that the Hon. F. H. MAY, Captain Superintendent of Police, the only witness hitherto examined orally by the Commission, "had nothing to complain of either as to the conduct of the keepers of public houses generally, or the quantity or quality of the liquors sold, and in fact said there was no reason to complain of drunkenness in the colony." Still more surprising was the statement that the naval and military medical officers in their replies to written interrogatories "had no serious complaint against the quality of the liquors supplied to the men. They had nothing to suggest." It has been generally supposed that naval and military officers felt very strongly on the subject, and it is a fact that not very long ago the troops on parade in Singapore, where the conditions are much the same as in Hongkong, were officially warned of the danger they incurred by the consumption of the liquor ordinarily sold in the grog shops. It may be that the alarm that has existed on this point has resulted from misapprehension of the true facts of the case, or it may be that while some cheap liquors are of the innocuous character described by Dr. STEDMAN on the authority of Mr. BROWNE, there are others of a more harmful character which have not come under the Analyst's observation. It will be an advantage, however, to have the report of the Commission on the evidence before it, after they have heard Mr. BROWNE, and we would suggest that when the report is published the answers of the naval and military medical officers should be given in full in an appendix.

WHY GERMANS SUCCEED IN BUSINESS.

In commenting upon Reuter's recent interview with Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON the *Daily Mail* says:—"Moreover, as Sir WILLIAM opportunely reminds us, even 'the open door will not guarantee England the trade of China. The Government cannot do everything. The traders for whom it is working must pull themselves together. At present even our own presence in Hongkong is falling into German hands; and Englishmen generally may be excused if they ask whether it is worth while incurring very much for traders who seem so helpless before their competitors.' Sir WILLIAM, it will be remembered, said that 'in the matter of trade Englishmen must wake up if they mean to hold their own. German commercial influence is extending there. Almost all the best residences are occupied by Germans, and their trade is certainly further increasing. This is partly due to the fact that while British merchants do not keep pace with the times, and limit themselves to supplying the old articles of trade, the German traders have realised the necessities of the case and will supply anything that is wanted, from a lucifer match to an elephant or even a menagerie.' There is not much exaggeration in these remarks. Take away the naval, military, civil service, and legal elements and the British community would make but a poor showing against the German. The employees of the Sugar Refineries, the Docks, and various professions, trades, and industries more or less directly connected with shipping give the British community a numerical preponderance, but the bulk of the 'merchant's business' pure and simple rests with our

German friends, and that they turn it to good account is seen in the extent to which they acquire the best houses in the colony. If in the summer one runs his eye over the passengers by the tiffin tram to the Peak he will see that Germans number about as many as the British, including officials, and altogether the Germans seem to enjoy what at first view appears a disproportionate share in the prosperity of the colony. If, however, this is due to their own energy and superior business methods Britishers must take the blame to themselves and, if they want to redress the balance, profit by their rivals' example.

The Germans, it will be admitted, devote more time to business than Britishers. They do not think it necessary in the winter to devote a day and a half a week to cricket and sundry afternoons to golf, not to speak of croquet, tennis, and football, besides taking the Sunday holiday. The Hongkong community used to be truthfully spoken of as an exceptionally hard working one, and the tradition still survives, but so far as the British section is concerned the tradition no longer corresponds with the facts of the case. Everyone of course admits the necessity of a reasonable amount of recreation in order to maintain the *mens sana in corpore sano*, but it must be admitted also that it is possible to overdo the thing, and it would seem that in Hongkong the Germans draw the line more correctly than the British. Then, again, Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON says the English do not keep pace with the times, whereas the Germans will supply anything that is required. The cause of this was hinted at by Mr. BYRON BRENAN in one of his recent reports, namely, that Englishmen are afraid of losing social tone if they engage in certain forms of perfectly respectable business which amongst the Germans are attended with no social disabilities. We do not know whether this is due to a difference in national characteristics or to the particular circumstances of the case. Perhaps at Kiaochau, when that place becomes a centre of trade, the boat may be found to be on the other leg; with the introduction amongst the Germans of the official and naval and military elements social distinctions may be drawn more strictly amongst them, the merchant may consider that he can no longer associate with the retail trader without compromising his social position, and the young men may be inspired with the desire to spend as much time in sports and amusements as the members of the garrison, leaving the lion's share of remunerative work to be done by Englishmen, as Englishmen in Hongkong leave it to be done by Germans. We do not anticipate that such will be the case, but it is within the bounds of possibility. Confining our view solely to Hongkong, however, there can be no doubt, we think, that the success of the Germans is due in the first place to the greater amount of time and attention they devote to business and in the second place to the fact that they are a united community whose members would prefer to put business in the way of each other than of outsiders, whereas amongst Englishmen social hostilities often give the foreigner an opportunity of stepping in and taking away business that might just as well be retained in English hands.

The following paragraph appears in the Singapore papers of the 12th April:—Telegraph communication beyond Escalante in Negros Island is interrupted, Tuburan cable station being in the hands of Philippine insurgents.

THE REMOVAL OF PLAGUE CASES.

There appears to be some defect in the arrangements made for the prompt removal of cases of plague after they are reported to the sanitary authorities. Sometimes as much as six or seven hours elapse before the removal of the patient takes place, and during this time the risk of the patient infecting the other occupants of the house must be considerable. The matter is one that should receive the attention of the authorities. The usual routine is that when a case of infectious disease is reported the report has to await the return of the Inspector of Nuisances for the district, should he be absent at the time of its receipt, as is generally the case, for his duties lie for the most part out of doors. In this way several hours may be lost before the report is placed in course of being attended to and another hour or two may elapse while arrangements are being made. In times of epidemic it is to be presumed that special arrangements are in force for more prompt attention being given to the reports, but at present these arrangements, if any exist, do not appear to be sufficient. If the defect lies in the smallness of the staff no time ought to be lost in increasing it to the necessary strength, for considerations of petty economy should not be allowed to interfere with the adoption of adequate measures for coping with the plague, which is subjecting the colony to such severe commercial loss. Even for ordinary times, when there is no epidemic, the arrangements for the prompt removal of cases of infectious disease, such as smallpox, appear to be inadequate.

MEDICAL INSPECTION AND THE PLAGUE.

It is rather singular that no word of protest has been raised by the shipping community against the system of medical inspection now being applied to arrivals from Canton and Macao, seeing how strong was the feeling expressed against the proposed establishment of the system as a permanent institution. The object of medical inspection is to keep infection out of the colony, but it is being applied now only after infection has been introduced. If it is not thought worth while to take measures for keeping infection at a distance when the colony is able to show a clean bill of health it seems doubtful whether the possible advantage that may accrue from such measures after an epidemic has actually broken out is worth the cost and inconvenience entailed, especially when the places in respect of which it is applied are suffering less from plague than the colony of Hongkong itself. If the introduction of only one case of plague can be prevented the system cannot be said to be altogether without its advantages, but the important thing is to prevent the introduction of the first case, and if medical inspection is not to be applied for that purpose it appears illogical to apply it to prevent the introduction of subsequent cases, for the mischief has then been done and the infection introduced. On one point, however, all parties must be agreed, and that is that if there is to be medical inspection at all arrangements should be made by which the inspection can be conducted immediately upon a vessel's arrival. The delay to which some vessels have been subjected affords ground for legitimate complaint.

A CHINESE PLAGUE HOSPITAL.

In recommending the establishment of a Chinese hospital for the reception of plague patients the Sanitary Board arrived at a wise decision. It is better that the Chinese should be encouraged to go voluntarily to a hospital under native management than that they should be allowed to die in concealment and have their bodies thrown out into the streets. Dr. ATKINSON and Dr. CLARK had qualms of conscience about recognising Chinese quacks, but that consideration hardly arises in the case. The establishment it is proposed to set up will be more in the nature of a well conducted dying house, we take it, than of a hospital for the application of curative treatment. No curative treatment has yet been discovered which possesses any efficacy when applied to Chinese plague patients. All but a very small percentage of those who are attacked die, and the few who get over the disease owe their recovery to their constitution rather than to medical treatment. From this point of view, therefore, the Chinese sufferers might just as well be in the hands of their own doctors as in those of foreign doctors; indeed, if the statistics can be accepted as reliable the mortality in the Chinese hospital in 1894 was rather less than in the Kennedytown Hospital. That is not surprising, if it be granted that the medical treatment received counts for nothing, because a patient's originally slender chances of recovery are calculated to be diminished in a hospital under foreign control owing to the mental distress to which he is subjected upon finding himself in unfamiliar and unwelcome surroundings. The plague in itself is a severe enough infliction upon our Chinese fellow residents without subjecting them to unnecessary worry or alarm. That the dread of foreign medical treatment is very real and deep seated is proved by the fact that persons attacked by plague, instead of going voluntarily to the hospital, or being taken there by their friends, are allowed to die in their own houses. The Chinese have no objection to going to a native hospital, it is only the foreign hospital they object to, and the result of the attempt to force Western medical treatment upon them is that the whole of the native community offers a passive resistance to the measures taken by the authorities to stamp out the plague, whereas the policy should be to enlist their active assistance. They will go to a Chinese hospital readily enough, and with the prompt removal of the sufferers from their own houses the chances of successfully checking the spread of the disease in the town will be materially increased.

Since the above was in type we have received a letter from Mr. E. OSBORNE, which will be found in another column. The views expressed in that letter will, we think, meet with very general approval, except possibly as to the free removal of plague patients from the colony. At first view it would seem desirable that persons suffering from plague should be encouraged to leave the colony, but the objection to that course is that if by the removal of patients from Hongkong the neighbouring villages become infected we will be exposed for an indefinite period to the danger of having the disease brought back to us; that instead of stamping the disease out we would be setting up fresh centres of infection with which we would afterwards be powerless to deal. If sufferers from the plague are to be allowed to leave the colony, therefore, it should only be for certain specified destinations from which there would be no great danger of the disease being reimported, and the

conditions of removal should be such as to preclude all possibility of the boats ordinarily plying in the harbour becoming infected. With this exception the line of policy sketched by Mr. Osborne is one that the authorities might follow with much advantage to the public welfare.

THE DUTIES OF A CHAIRMAN.

The meeting of the Sanitary Board on Tuesday was remarkable for the curious and unexpected light in which Dr. ATKINSON exhibited himself as the President. An outburst of temper and intolerance from a man of such a genial and agreeable disposition was the last thing that one could have expected. And, carried away by his feelings, he put forward a claim of privilege in debate, by virtue of his position as President, which has no warrant in usage or common sense. It is the duty of the chairman of a deliberative assembly to enforce certain rules framed for ensuring the orderly conduct of debate, and it is necessarily understood that he will himself conform to those rules. He is entitled and it is his duty to interrupt a speaker when the rules are being infringed, but only for the enforcement of the rules, and not for the purpose of checking the free expression of opinions that may be opposed to his own or securing any unfair advantage to himself in the debate. One of the rules of the Sanitary Board is that "when the President rises it shall be the duty of the member to resume his seat," and this Dr. ATKINSON interpreted as giving him the right to rise as often as he liked and interrupt other speakers, not only for the purpose of enforcing the rules of debate, but in order to secure to himself what he apparently thought would be a tactical advantage in controversy. A study of some such work as "The Chairman's Handbook" might be found profitable by the worthy doctor, whose little ebullition of temper, regrettable as it was, was not of such a serious character that it should be allowed to materially affect the high reputation he deservedly enjoys. It is the duty of a chairman to rule impartially, and, when he is himself one of the controversialists, to draw a sharp distinction between the two capacities in which he appears and see that he does not as a controversialist infringe the rules he has to enforce as chairman.

SPAIN AND THE UNITED STATES AND THE FUTURE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

War between Spain and the United States now seems unavoidable. A question of material importance to the Far East will arise out of the conflict, namely the future government of the Philippines. The overthrow of the Spanish sovereignty in those islands will be one of the earliest incidents in the war, and once overthrown there would not be much prospect of its successful re-establishment, even should the United States be willing to hand the islands back to Spain at the conclusion of hostilities. It is understood that the rebels are only waiting for the destruction of the Spanish fleet in the Philippines to organise a general rising, which would have every prospect of being successful, for it is only by the assistance of the fleet that the islands are held in subjection. The United States, if they take Manila, may have to establish some sort of provisional Government to carry on the administration pending the termination of the war, but they will not annex the islands in perpetuity, and for Spain to attempt to re-establish herself there would be equivalent to under-

taking their reconquest, a task for which she would be ill-equipped after her fleet had been destroyed and her treasury exhausted. The natives, however, can hardly be considered sufficiently advanced for any form of self-government, and we are thus brought face to face with an interesting problem as to what is to become of the islands. The natives themselves, next to the establishment of a purely native Government, would probably desire to be incorporated with Japan, but against the further extension of that empire it is possible that some European Powers might enter a protest and be prepared to back it up by force if necessary.

PLAGUE ON THE "ROHILLA."

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS,"]

Nagasaki, 21st April.

The P. & O. steamer *Rohilla* has arrived and reports one Chinese plague case on the voyage.

The vessel is to be disinfected to-morrow and will be quarantined for a week.

[The *Rohilla* left Hongkong on the 17th April.]

THE UNITED STATES AND SPAIN.

Telegrams have been received, both official and private, stating that the President of the United States on Thursday signed an ultimatum requiring Spain to leave Cuba, compliance to be signified within forty-eight hours.

SUPREME COURT.

16th April.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND MR. JUSTICE WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

NIP SHEUNG CHOI v. SUI NUN.

This was an appeal from the decision of Mr. Wodehouse, Police Magistrate, on the 3rd of January, of the present year, by which he sentenced the appellant, Nip Sheung Choi, to six months' imprisonment with hard labour. The charge made against appellant was that she "unlawfully did assault, beat, and abuse one Sui Nun, a girl under the age of 14 years, on the 28th December, 1897, and divers other dates, thereby causing her grievous bodily harm."

Mr. Pollock (instructed by Messrs. Monnsey and Brutton) appeared for appellant.

The Chief Justice—Have you communicated with the Registrar-General?

The Deputy-Registrar (Mr. Seth); Yes, my Lord.

The Chief Justice—You have had no reply?

The Deputy-Registrar—I have had no reply.

Mr. Pollock—I understand that the Registrar-General will not appear. Continuing he said their lordships would remember that when that case was last before the court he drew attention to the fact that the charge was one of assaulting, beating, and abusing one Sui Nun on the 28th December, 1897, and "divers other dates," and he laid some emphasis upon the fact that the words "divers other dates" were included in the charge, but it was pointed out by their lordships that the magistrate had put on record in his finding that although the charge mentioned the 28th of December and "divers other dates" he as a matter of fact found the appellant guilty of an assault on the 28th of December. When he raised the objection that the conviction was bad upon the face of it, because the charge had not been amended, their lordships intimated that that could be cured by the fact that the Magistrate had found that the assault had taken place on the 28th December. Since the case was last before the court he had reconsidered the matter, and it seemed to him, if he might say so with respect, that the view their lordships then put forward was correct. But it was important for their lordships to bear in mind the fact that the charge was for assault on the 28th December and divers other dates,

because his contention was that the Magistrate improperly admitted certain evidence in the case which had reference to other dates than the 28th December.

Mr. Justice Wise—We have got to confine ourselves to the evidence given with reference to the 28th December. I do not see that any assault which took place on any other date has anything to do with us at all.

Mr. Pollock—But you have to bear in mind that the Magistrate did receive evidence of assault on other dates, and it is impossible for your lordships to say that that evidence might not have had some weight in the Magistrate's mind as to whether an assault actually took place on the 28th.

The Chief Justice—It appears to me that the Magistrate convicted on the ground of these alleged injuries.

Mr. Pollock—Your lordships will see from the evidence that the Magistrate went into the side issues of the case and took the most general evidence of ill-treatment down as evidence, and that being so my contention would be that this conviction cannot stand.

The matter was still further argued. The evidence showed that the child was struck by appellant on December 28th with a small stick, but seeing that appellant had been in prison for two or three weeks the court considered that a fine of \$1 would meet the case.

18th April.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

MURDEROUS ASSAULT ON A WIFE.

Kwok Sui was charged with wounding his wife, Leung Ling, with intent to murder her. A second count in the indictment charged him with wounding his wife with intent to do her grievous bodily harm.

The following comprised the jury:—Messrs. William Bradley Walker, Geo. Thos. Veitch, F. J. Cama A. dos Remedios Carlos, J. H. Maclehorse, J. M. da Rocha, and C. D. Danenberg.

The Attorney-General, the Hon. W. M. Goodman (instructed by Mr. H. L. Denny, Crown Solicitor) appeared for the prosecution and stated the case to the jury.

Prosecutrix said she was 40 years of age. She married prisoner at Whampoa when she was 16 years of age. After they had lived together for two years prisoner went away to Shanghai, and was away 21 years. He returned on the 15th of June, 1897. In the interval she received neither message nor money from him. After he had been away seven years, she went to live with a man named Ho Chun, who died four years ago. They had no children. She adopted a son and a daughter. The former was now 16 years of age and the later 16 years of age. On the 15th of June, 1897, she was living on the second floor of the house No. 10, Tung Man lane. There were living with her her adopted daughter, her daughter-in-law, and another woman, the wife of a lamp trimmer on a steamer. She was not living with any man at the time. On the date named prisoner came up to where she was living, and when he saw her he said he had no employment and was without money. She did not know what employment he had when at Shanghai, but when she married him he was a houseboy. She welcomed him and they lived together as man and wife. She asked him why he had not sent any letter while he was away, and he said it was because he had no money. On the 16th of September last he went away to Canton, getting from her \$75 in money and clothing. That was all she had. On two occasions she went to the Police Station to complain about prisoner's conduct. On the first occasion she overlooked his conduct on his promising to amend. Last October she took out a summons against him and subsequently a warrant for his arrest was issued. On the 15th of last month at 11 o'clock at night he came to her house and asked her for \$100 dollars saying that if she did not find it for him he would chop her to death. She was ill at the time. Prisoner left the house at five o'clock the following morning, returning

in the evening with the wand produced. The wand indicated mourning. He was not in mourning when he left her in the morning. As he was coming into the house he said, "You all must leave; I'm going to chop." Besides herself there were in the house her lodger, adopted daughter, and her intended daughter-in-law. They went down through the trap door when prisoner told them. He prevented prosecutrix from going down, and shut the door and placed over it two baskets of firewood and two pieces of bed board. There was a means of getting on to the roof from the room, there being a sky-light in the roof. There was a ladder there before the trap door was put down, but it disappeared afterwards. Then she saw prisoner pull out a bright knife with which he stabbed her in the throat. Then he cut her on the cheek, back of the head, and hands. She tried to ward off the blows. Ultimately she became giddy and fell out of the cockloft, where she lived, on to the second floor, and became insensible. In addition to using the knife prisoner kicked her in the face while she was on the floor. When she regained consciousness she found herself in the Hospital. While in the house she did not see anyone come in by the roof. She came out of the Hospital on the first of April. The knife which prisoner used had a black handle with a bright new blade. The knife did not shut up. It was sharp-pointed. The wound on her head was not quite cured, but the others were all right now. She did not know a man named Fung Chi Qwang. It would not be true if anyone said she was living with this man and that it was he who cut her with the knife.

Prisoner said he had no question to ask; he would make his statement by and by.

In reply to the Chief Justice, prosecutrix said she earned her living by cleaning ginger and her daughter worked in a dispensary. Since Ho Chun's death she had not lived with any other man. There was a pool of blood on the floor after prisoner had attacked her. She became unconscious very soon after prisoner began to assault her. She did not know how prisoner got away. They did not get on very well since he returned last year because he was always asking her for money, and because she did not give him any he used to assault her. Prisoner did not follow any employment.

Dr. Bell said that on the evening of the 16th of last month prosecutrix was admitted to the hospital. If she had not been brought to the hospital and properly attended to she would have bled to death. She had a deep cut across the right thumb right down to the bone; she had two cuts on the left cheek about one inch in length each and nearly through to the mouth; she had a cut on the left eye-brow about an inch in length and a small cut on the left lower lip; she had a severe scalp wound at the back of the head about an inch and a half in length and penetrating to the bone; she had a small cut on the left hand and on the neck were some scratches which seemed to have been done by the finger-nails. The wounds which he looked upon as most serious were the one at the back of the head and that on the right thumb. The woman was very ill when admitted to the Hospital. She nearly died during the evening. The wounds had now all healed practically. Prisoner was brought into the Hospital at the same time as prosecutrix with a wound on his head. It might have been caused by a fall or a blow with a blunt instrument. He was discharged on March 28th, as the wound took some time to heal. Another man—Chang—was brought in the same evening, but there was nothing the matter with him. He was scared and knocked out of time. He was discharged the next morning.

In answer to prisoner the doctor said he did not remember him telling him that his wife's sweetheart chased him with a knife.

Pok Wang, prosecutrix's adopted daughter, said she was living with prosecutrix on March 16th at 10, Tung Man lane. Her mother was not well at the time. There was no man with her that evening. She did not know any man of the name of Foo Chee Qwang. Prisoner came to the house at about half-past six in the evening. He struck her and then he struck the prosecutrix. Prisoner then told her to go away, as he was going to chop. When he came in he had a piece of white cloth tied

round his head and another tied round his waist. They all left the room except prosecutrix and prisoner, and prisoner put down the trap door. She then heard prosecutrix cry out. She tried to push the trap door open, but there was something heavy on the top of it. The intended daughter-in-law went down stairs and then went on to the roof. Witness went into the street, and while there prisoner fell from the roof into the street. He fell on to a man. Her father and mother frequently quarrelled when he asked her for money, and every now and then he said that if he could not get her money from her mother he would chop her. Prisoner did not work.

Prosecutrix, recalled, denied that when he returned from Shanghai prisoner handed her some money to keep. It was not true that shortly after their marriage she ran away with a sweetheart. It was not true that the previous witness was the daughter of her sweetheart.

Cheung Sing, the intended daughter-in-law, and the woman lodger, gave corroborative evidence.

P.C. 104 said that on the evening of March 16th he took prisoner to the Hospital in the ambulance. He found him hurt in Fung Man lane. Prosecutrix and a postman were also hurt and he took them all to the Hospital in due course. Prisoner was laid down in the street unconscious.

Inspector Hansen said that on the night of the 16th March, in consequence of information received, he went to No. 10, Tung Man lane. He found the cock-loft much upset, and there was a good deal of blood about. He went on to the roof and saw signs of someone having fallen down. He sought for the knife but could not find it. The depth from the eaves of the house to the street was 35 feet.

Prisoner—Do you think it possible that I could swallow the knife in the stomach?

Witness—Certainly not.

The Attorney-General suggested that being a new knife it might have been picked up in the street.

Prisoner, when asked if he had anything to say, made a long statement. Towards the conclusion he said that on returning home on the evening of the 16th March he found the man Foo Chee Qwang in the house. Being angry he struck his wife, and Qwang took up a weapon and attempted to kill him. He afterwards fell down into the street and knew nothing after that. He had no weapon and could not have inflicted the wounds upon his wife. He had no doubt they were inflicted by Qwang.

The jury found prisoner guilty on the second count—of wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm—and the Chief Justice sentenced him to three years' imprisonment.

19th April.

ALLEGED BLACKMAILING OF A CHINESE DOCTOR.

A student apothecary named Mok Lai Sun was charged (1) with demanding money with menaces and (2) larceny.

The Attorney-General, the Hon. W. M. Goodman (instructed by Mr. H. L. Dennys, Crown Solicitor) appeared for the prosecution and Mr. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) for the defence.

The following composed the jury:—Messrs. R. E. Humphreys, C. H. Rogge, J. A. Gomes, J. H. M. de Figueiredo, G. J. Gomes, A. A. H. Botello and F. M. Cama.

The Deputy-Registrar (Mr. Seth) having read over the indictment to prisoner, asked—Are you guilty or not guilty? You speak English, I believe?

Prisoner—I wish to speak in Chinese.

The indictment was then read over to him in Chinese, and he pleaded not guilty.

The Attorney-General said the charge against prisoner was that on the 19th of June of last year he obtained \$170 from a Chinese doctor named Lai Yung Hong by menaces with intent to steal; the second count was that he stole the money. Prisoner had a brother who was not in custody who was also a student apothecary at the Civil Hospital last June and July. What was alleged against prisoner was that he and his brother used their position to devise a scheme by which they

could squeeze out of a Chinese doctor a considerable sum of money on the ground that he gave a prescription which, according to their allegation, was of a poisonous character. They frightened him into thinking he would be put into gaol on account of this prescription which he had given to some man unless he paid a large sum of money. As a matter of fact there was nothing wrong with the prescription. He should call the analyst who was alleged to have said the prescription was poisonous—that was Mr. Browne—and he would say that there was not the slightest shadow of a foundation for the allegation—that he never said the prescription was poisonous or anything of the kind. A man went to consult Lai Yung Hong last June. He thought he had not much wrong with him; he thought the prescription was given for a cough. If his recollection was right it was some drug used by the Chinese doctors for a cough. At all events there was nothing much the matter with it. As the man did not seem to get any better or any worse, he went to another doctor and prosecutor had not seen him since. Whether or no he went to the Hospital they did not know. He was rather inclined to think he did, because soon after that prisoner sent for prosecutor to the Hospital on the 16th or 17th of June. At this first interview prosecutor was fairly scared, for prisoner told him that the analyst had said he had "prescribed poison for the man," and that the best thing he could do, if he did not want to get into trouble, would be to pay \$600, the sum being ultimately reduced to \$300. On the 18th June prisoner spoke to prosecutor again on the subject, telling him that he must have a present and that all the Chinese doctors were under his supervision. Towards the conclusion of the interview prisoner said, "You may go away, but I must have \$300 by half-past eight to-morrow, otherwise I will examine the prescription and send you to gaol." The man went home not very happy probably in his mind and he communicated his trouble to a man named Mok Shan Nam, getting the latter to see prisoner about the matter. Subsequently on the 19th June prosecutor and Mok Shan Nam saw prisoner, who ultimately agreed to accept \$170. Prisoner said, "If you do not pay the money by half-past four I will have you arrested and put in gaol as your prescription was not proper, but if you pay me \$170 I will put your prescription right." The man was so frightened at the suggestion that he had done something wrong and that he would be liable to be sent to prison, that in the course of the day he sent Mok Shan Nam to see prisoner and to pay him \$170. Prisoner signed a receipt for the money, signing his name as "Lai Tong." When asked why he did not put "Mok Lai Sun," he said that that was an alias. A little later on there was a further attempt to get money from prosecutor, who thereupon gave information to the police. Prisoner and his brother, hearing of this, left the colony, and prisoner was subsequently arrested under a warrant, brought up at the Magistracy, and committed for trial.

On the first count five of the jury were in favour of finding prisoner guilty and two were against. With regard to the second count the jury unanimously found him guilty.

The Chief Justice sentenced prisoner to imprisonment for 15 months.

15th April.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

ATACHIO V. AQUINALDO AND OTHERS.

Mr. Francis (instructed by Messrs. Johnson, Stokes, and Master) applied for an injunction on the suit of Isabella Atachio, on behalf of himself and others interested in a fund in Hongkong, to restrain defendant, Emilio Aquinaldo, with whom are joined as defendants the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, from parting with the possession of a sum of \$400,000 remitted to Hongkong by the Spanish Government for distribution among

certain of the leaders of the late rebellion in the Philippine Islands.

Mr. Francis said the application was founded on the affidavit of Isabella Atachio, which affidavit he proceeded to read. Plaintiff stated in his affidavit that he was a native of the Philippine Islands and at present resided at 4, Ripon Terrace, Victoria. He was one of the principal actors and leaders in the late rebellion in the Philippine Islands which broke out in the month of August, 1896, and came to a conclusion in December, 1897. In or about the month of March, 1897, Emilio Aguinaldo became the leader in the insurrection, and continued as such to the end. During his leadership he formed a provisional Government consisting of a Council of seven persons. Aguinaldo was president of the said Council, and plaintiff, as Minister of the Interior, was one of the seven members. In the month of December, 1897, an agreement was effected between the Spanish Government and the Provisional Government the terms of which were incorporated in a conveyance. By such conveyance the Spanish Government undertook to pay the sum of \$800,000, to be distributed as to half among the leaders of the movement and as to the balance amongst those engaged in it, and to protect the lives and property of the rebels, on the delivery up of the arms of the rebels and the departure from the country of the chief leaders. On the 27th of December, 1897, he received a telegram in Manila from Aguinaldo, who with 35 other leaders had previously come to Hongkong, stating he had received the \$400,000, and that plaintiff was to deliver to the Spanish Government the arms and ammunition, for which purpose he had remained behind in Manila, as agreed by the terms of the conveyance. Soon afterwards he came to Hongkong—at the beginning of February, 1898—and he had resided here ever since. He believed the \$400,000 was deposited by Aguinaldo in his own name in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and in the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China. Since his arrival in Hongkong he had made frequent applications to Aguinaldo for this \$400,000 dollars to be shared as intended, but he had ignored all such applications. The letters in question were read, and Mr. Francis added that he wanted to make a formal amendment. The whole of the \$400,000 was originally deposited with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, and it was Aguinaldo himself who transferred part to the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China.

The order asked for was granted on the usual terms as to costs.

HARDOON V. BELILIOS.

In this case E. A. Hardoon, an assistant in the firm of E. D. Sassoon and Co., is the plaintiff and the Hon. E. R. Belilios, trading as Belilios and Co., the defendant. The subject matter of the action is a claim by plaintiff against defendant to obtain an indemnity in respect of certain calls in the late Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, which on the date of the liquidation of that company were registered in the name of plaintiff and which on the same date were, plaintiff alleged, held and owned by defendant. The hearing of the case was commenced last week.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Brutton, of Messrs. Mounsey and Brutton) appeared for plaintiff and Mr. E. Robinson (instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) for defendant.

Mr. Baxter, who was formerly in the employ of the Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, again entered the box, and was cross-examined at considerable length by Mr. Robinson as to the transactions with the Bank in connection with the letters of credit granted to defendant. He produced the books of the Bank, showing from the letter books what was done in the matter of the reduction of the loan of £110,000 to £72,369 on January 2nd. Certain books which he had sent for were not, however, forthcoming. The general ledger and the book containing the letters of credit issued were produced. He could not say if the £36,339 was carried as a gold loan in London. There was an entry in the books showing that on October 27th, 1894, the balance of interest on the closing of the account was

\$680.30. The account was apparently closed by the gradual payment off of shares and the final payment of the amount by Mr. Belilios. On November 23rd there was a surplus credit to Mr. Belilios at the Bank of \$68,845.42. On October 27th, 1894, there were two entries closing the account. He could not say if the amount of \$68,000 odd was remitted to London, but it could be traced through the books. It was not a payment to defendant, but a loan to him. Apparently shares had been sold and dividends received showing a surplus. No transactions of a gold loan account would appear in the books here; they would be kept in London. The system of book-keeping here had been changed in the Bank since 1893. If the journal were kept correctly it should show what other transactions Mr. Belilios had with the Bank. From January 11th to January 26th 100 Hongkong Bank Shares were withdrawn, but he could not say whether they were withdrawn or not. All shares in the custody of the bank appeared in the register. In February, 1892, 1,600 shares in witness's own company were withdrawn, and also some Browns and Ice Companys. Thirty-two Ice shares held as collateral security against the letter of credit for £110,000 were withdrawn on February 3rd, 1892, and on the same date 0 Browns held as collateral security on the same credit were withdrawn, four Hongkong Banks being also taken out on the same date.

Alexander Coult, Acting Chief Accountant of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, produced from the Bank the letter of Feb. 3rd, 1892, signed by Mr. Belilios, forwarding script, &c., for four Hongkong and Shanghai Bank shares, 1,600 shares in the Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits (800 old issue and 800 new issue), and other shares.

Michael Hai Michael, of the firm of J. R. Michael, said he was at one time in the employ of Belilios and Co. as bookkeeper, whose employ he left in April, 1894. He was with them four years. While in their employ he had some shares of the firm registered in his name—different sets of shares at different times. It was of frequent occurrence. At the time he left he had some 300 shares in the Bank of China, shares of which he was not himself the holder, registered in his name. He was asked by Mr. Belilios to consent to have the shares in his name. He signed the ordinary transfer paper in connection with these shares. When he left he received the letter produced from Belilios and Co. saying that in consideration of your allowing the 300 shares standing in your name but owned by us and upon which shares the sum of £2 per share has been already paid to remain untransferred we undertake to pay such calls as may be lawfully required to be paid in respect of such shares immediately on instructions from you. He did not know whether those shares were new or old issues. He had no interest in them whatever. The shares were transferred out of his name either last year or the year before. At the time the Bank went into liquidation the shares were still standing in his name. During the year 1894 he was called upon to pay a call and Belilios and Co. paid it. Since the liquidation he had been called upon to pay calls in respect of these shares and these calls had been met by Mr. Belilios. He did not himself sign or make any application to get shares in the new Bank. These shares were ultimately transferred to Mr. Moses, a clerk in the employ of Belilios and Co. Witness was bookkeeper to Belilios and Co. in 1892. The books were kept in English. He remembered about 2,000 Hongkong Bank shares being placed in an account opened under the heading of "C. account" in the syndicate account. He remembered some members of the syndicate. There were the Coxons, Mr. Dick, and Mr. Melbye. He remembered a further account being opened called the "syndicate marginal account." He remembered closing the marginal account himself. The marginal securities were taken over by Mr. Belilios at the market rate ruling at that date, and the balance was placed to the credit of each individual member of the syndicate in proportion to the number of Bank shares (Hongkong and Shanghai Bank shares) held by them. He did not remember any other account being opened while he was connected with the firm as to the marginal securities as a whole. When the firm took over

these securities they were treated in the same way as any other shares of the firm. There was an account opened for each separate class of shares, and the Bank of China shares were included in a new account opened. The Ices were carried to an account under the heading of Ices, and the other shares were treated in the same way. These share accounts appeared in the general ledger. Witness was examined by Mr. Francis at some length with regard to certain items in the book. The firm kept a separate register showing the details of the different shares in their possession. If any of the 1,600 Bank of China shares had been sold he would expect to find them entered in the ledger account of that name. Referring to the old share register, he found 50 shares in the Bank of China registered in the name of Hardoon. He also found from another entry that these shares were deposited with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, the date being February, 1892. In the new share register he found a catalogue of 1,950 shares, including those of Hardoon, in the Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits. There was nothing in the entry to show they had been deposited anywhere.

The further hearing was adjourned.

20th April.

Mr. Michael, formerly bookkeeper in the employ of Belilios and Co., again entered the witness box and was examined by Mr. Francis as to various items in the books.

In answer to Mr. Robinson, witness said he was 37 years of age. He was born in Bagdad, and learned to speak English there. He commenced his business career in Bombay when 18 years of age. He generally acted as a clerk. He commenced bookkeeping when between 18 and 20. His last situation in Bombay was in the office of the P. and O. Company there. He kept books in the cashier's department. He left Bombay in 1882 for Shanghai, where he acted as bookkeeper principally. He left Shanghai in 1888 for Hongkong, remaining with the same firm as at Shanghai until 1890, when he entered the service of Belilios and Co., and remained in their employ until March, 1894. Since then he had acted as share broker, assisting his uncle. Counsel proceeded to cross-examine witness with regard to the books, with the object of showing that he had done his work carelessly.

Re-examined by Mr. Francis—When he left Mr. Belilios's employment he got a testimonial from him which said that during the period he had been with them he had given them the most complete satisfaction.

This concluded the case for the plaintiff.

Mr. Robinson said that with regard to the case before his Lordship he thought one fact was admitted and that a very important one, the fact, namely, that Mr. Belilios was not in any sense the immediate transferee or assignee from Mr. Hardoon of the shares still standing registered in Mr. Hardoon's name, and the issue put in the briefest way before the court was whether Mr. Hardoon had any right of action against Mr. Belilios.

The Chief Justice asked Mr. Robinson if he proposed to raise some point of law as to the validity of plaintiff's case against defendant, adding that if that was his intention he had better raise it then.

After a little discussion on this point, Mr. Robinson suggested that the Court should adjourn for the day, and in the meantime he would consider what course he would take.

Under the heading of the "Uling Mines" the Manila Comercio of the 6th April says:—The manager of the Company, Mr. Macleod, accompanied by the engineer who has been surveying the Company's property, has been at Cebu to make arrangements for the immediate commencement of work, the capital having been subscribed. We hear that the route of the proposed railway from the mines to the town of Cebu has been surveyed, and should the project be carried out, as we believe it will, it will prove of great importance. We augur a good result for this enterprise and congratulate the town of Cebu, for with the working of the mines an era of industrial and commercial activity will set in for that place.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, held at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, the 12th April. Present: Messrs. R. M. Gray (Chairman), G. B. Dodwell, A. Haupt, J. J. Bell-Irving, T. Jackson, N. A. Siebs, T. H. Whitehead, and R. C. Wilcox (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting (held 16th March) were read and confirmed.

MR. N. J. EDE.

The CHAIRMAN said—Before proceeding to business I should like to mention that at the general request of the committee, Mr. Ede was invited to give us the benefit of his advice and assistance at this meeting; but, unfortunately, his presence is claimed by the Sanitary Board. I am sure that you all agree with me that we cannot allow his name to be disassociated from the committee without expressing our high opinion of the valuable assistance he has been to us during the six years since he first joined the committee, and I now propose that the Secretary be instructed to write him in the name of the committee a letter of acknowledgment of his valuable services with our heartiest good wishes for his future health and happiness. I am sure that we shall greatly miss his sound opinion and liberal views.

MR. JACKSON—I have great pleasure in seconding that resolution. I can fully endorse all that the Chairman has said about Mr. Ede, and I am sure we all greatly regret his loss. Personally I have always considered Mr. Ede a pillar of strength in the committee.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Arbitration Committee should remain as last year, with the substitution of Mr. Haupt's name for that of Mr. Michaelsen, viz., Messrs. J. J. Bell-Irving, G. B. Dodwell, A. Haupt, N. A. Siebs, and T. H. Whitehead.

This was agreed to.

It was further agreed that the Corresponding Committee should consist of Messrs R. M. Gray, Herbert Smith, T. Jackson, and H. A. Ritchie.

INTERNAL TAXATION OF FOREIGN MERCHANDISE IN THE TWO KWANG.

The CHAIRMAN stated that in accordance with the decision come to at last meeting, a letter was, on the 17th March, despatched to H.B.M.'s Consul at Canton, asking whether the report that the Tsung-li Yamen had agreed to modify the regulations governing the Transit Pass trade by permitting sale of goods *en route*, whether the Chinese officials had yet supplied any information as to tso-li taxes, and whether any satisfactory explanation of Mr. Watts's case had been received. On the 19th March replies were received from Mr. Brennan, in which he stated (1) that it was correct that a modification in the regulations permitting sale of goods under transit pass while *en route* had been agreed to; (2) that with regard to Mr. Watts's complaint, although he had several times applied to the Viceroy for an explanation, it was still not forthcoming; and (3) that the Viceroy had abolished the syndicate which formed the collection of tso-li on kerosine, and that in future the duty was to be collected by Government officials. Replies to these letters were on the 22nd March despatched to the Consul.

Read further letter, received 23rd March, from Mr. Brennan, in which he states that he had been supplied with a list of all existing likin stations and with a tariff of the likin charges. From the Consul's statement it is clear that most articles of foreign import are liable to pay a terminal tax of about 2 per cent. *ad valorem*, but there is no guarantee against the indefinite multiplication of this impost.

The Chairman then read a reply to above, which it was proposed to despatch that afternoon.

POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

Agreeably to instructions, a letter had, on the 17th March, been addressed to the Postmaster-General in reply to his despatch of the 14th idem stating that in the opinion of the Committee the delivery of the letters by French mail in advance of other matter would be a decided improvement.

On the 18th March a further letter was received from the Postmaster-General inquiring whether, in the opinion of the Chamber, the establishment of branch Post Offices near Bonham Strand, at Wanchai, and at Kowloon would be desirable. A reply was, on the 25th idem, returned to the effect that, before endorsing the experiment, the Committee would be glad to have an estimate of the approximate cost, of maintenance of branch offices near Bonham Strand and at Kowloon, and with reference to Wanchai, were of opinion it would be better to first await result of trial of the first named proposed branches.

Read reply, dated 28th March, from the Postmaster-General stating that "as the Committee is not in a position to ascertain the requirements of the localities in question, it is unnecessary to trouble them further in the matter."

This letter was regarded by the Committee as hardly courteous.

MR. WATTS'S CASE.

Read letter, dated 26th March, from H.B.M.'s Consul at Canton announcing that he was at length in receipt of the Su Chuen Magistrate's explanation of his action in placing an embargo on the coal purchased by Mr. Watts at Saiwan, in Kwangsi, namely, that the coal was not the property of the vendor.

Also read letter from Mr. Watts, dated 4th April, enclosing copy of despatch from Mr. Brennan to similar effect as above, and copy of his reply thereto reasserting his claim.

Decided to await result of Mr. Watts's further application.

QUARANTINE.

A letter was on the 17th March addressed to the Government transmitting copy of the letter of the shipping firms protesting against the action of the Straits Government in declaring Hongkong an infected port.

Read letter from the Acting Colonial Secretary, dated 22nd March, in reply, in which it was stated that H.E. the Acting Governor had already used his best efforts to induce the Straits Government to modify the restrictions imposed, and enclosing copies of the telegrams which had passed on the subject.

Also read letters from the Singapore Chamber of Commerce dated 17th and 28th March, the first confirming their telegram of the 14th idem, and the latter acknowledging receipt of this Chamber's letter of the 15th.

Letters from the Government, dated 21st, 23rd, 29th March, and 1st April announcing the imposition of quarantine on vessels arriving from Hongkong at Saigon, ports of Indo-China, Shanghai and ports of Egypt were laid on the table.

The CHAIRMAN read a letter just received from the Government enclosing copy of telegram from the British Minister at Bangkok to following effect:—"Bubonic plague all vessels from Hongkong shall call at Koh Phae and complete nine days from date of sailing before receiving pratique."

ADULTERATION OF ANISEED OIL.

The SECRETARY reported that the correspondence on this subject had been circulated among the firms interested in the trade with a covering letter asking their opinion as to whether concerted action was possible or whether it should be left to individual effort.

As the replies showed a great division of opinion, the Committee decided that it must be left to individual effort to provide a remedy, and the Secretary was instructed to reply to Mr. Hillier stating what had been done and thanking Mr. Morse for the trouble he had taken in the matter.

THE PINNACLE ROCK FUND.

Read letter from Mr. Edgar, Commissioner of Customs, Foochow, dated 6th April, announcing the discovery of the sunken rock on which the steamer *Namoa* was wrecked, and enclosing copy of a notice to mariners about to be issued.

Resolved to publish the letter and notice in the Press.

Commander Hastings had two more tradesmen before him yesterday for being in possession of measures not according to the standard measures of the colony, Cheung Ho, of 204, Queen's road East, being fined \$7 and Cheung Chung, of 11, Cross Street, \$10.

THE TRANSIT PASS TRADE AND THE TAXATION OF FOREIGN GOODS.

The following correspondence is attached to the minutes of the last meeting of the committee of the Chamber of Commerce:—

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,

Hongkong, 22nd March.

Sir.—I beg leave to acknowledge receipt of your letter (No. 29) of the 18th inst. in reply to the Chairman's letter of the 17th, making certain inquiries, namely, with regard to the reported new regulations for the sale *en route* of foreign goods under transit pass, and whether any progress had been made in the case of Mr. Watts.

I have to thank you for the promptitude of your reply, and to express, on behalf of my Committee, their satisfaction with the announcement in reference to the modification of the transit pass regulations. They trust, however, that with the endorsement of the quantity of goods sold *en route* on the transit pass the names of the buyers will not be required, as such a condition would go far to nullify the value of the concession.

With regard to the sale of coal to Mr. Watts the Committee trust that the Viceroy will accept no further delays on the part of the Fu Chuen Magistrate in forwarding an explanation of his conduct.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

HERB. SMITH.

Vice-Chairman.

Byron Brennan, Esq., C.M.G., H.B.M.'s Consul, Canton.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong, 22nd March.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of your despatch of the 18th instant, announcing that the Viceroy of the Two Kwang has abolished the syndicate which farmed the collection of tso-li tax on kerosine oil, and my Committee note, with much satisfaction, that directions have been given by the Tsung-li Yamen that the practice of farming taxes is not to be repeated.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

HERB. SMITH,

Vice-Chairman.

To Byron Brennan, Esq., C.M.G., H.B.M.'s Consul, Canton.

H.B.M.'s Consulate, Canton, 21st March, 1898.

Sir,—In my letter of the 18th inst. I promised to write separately on the subject of the tso-li (destination) tax.

I have been supplied by the Canton Authorities with a list of all existing likin stations and with a tariff of the likin charges. In this province there are forty-nine likin stations; the tariff contains seven hundred articles on which a specific tax is levied; in all unenumerated goods the tax is two per cent. *ad valorem*. The imports in which foreigners are interested nearly all come in the unenumerated class.

The principle on which likin is collected is this. At the first barrier encountered goods pay one likin; at the next barrier *en route* again one likin, and then no more until the last barrier before the destination, when a final likin called tso-li (destination tax) is levied. Thus in the one province goods should not be called upon to pay more than three likins, or about 6 per cent. This is the established rule, but I need hardly say that it is not followed in practice.

On ordinary merchandise, by which I mean such as is not under transit pass, the three likins are collected from the person in charge of the boat, and the receiver of the goods at destination has nothing to pay. In order, however, to meet the case of transit pass goods, the officials now explain that the tso-li or destination tax is properly leviable from the consignee, and that it is voluntarily paid by the boatman on account of the consignee as a matter of convenience.

In reply to my application for a list of goods that pay tso-li, and of the places where stations for its collection are established, the Viceroy stated that all goods of every kind pay tso-li. In important markets like Canton, Fatsan, Chents'un, etc., special offices exist for the collection of the tso-li tax from the dealers; and these offices also receive the tso-li tax from

dealers in neighbouring towns and villages. Where there are no special tso-li offices, the ordinary likin stations collect the tax from the dealer; and the places where there are neither tso-li offices nor likin stations, the dealer is required to repair to the nearest station and pay the destination tax; if he fails to do this, a collector is sent to enforce payment.

In the case of native produce, or of foreign goods in native hands and on native account, it may be safely assumed that the dealer at destination is never called upon to pay anything, for the good reason that all taxes, be they styled transit or destination, have been paid before the goods reached his hands. Natives do not venture to take out transit passes, so that all foreign goods in their hands are unprotected and, like native produce, they must take their chance of unfair treatment on the journey. When foreign goods are sent into the interior under transit pass in a foreigner's name, the pass is now frequently respected to its journey's end, and even after the goods have been taken delivery of by the Chinese consignee they may, if the place is remote from a likin office, be left unnoticed; but where there is a tendency for the trade to increase, the consignee is called upon to pay the destination tax which in theory is payable by all dealers alike.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) BYRON BRENNAN,
Consul.

The Chairman, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce
Hongkong, 11th April, 1898.

Sir,—I beg leave to acknowledge receipt of your interesting despatch (No. 33) of the 21st ult. on the subject of the tso-li or terminal tax, of the contents of which careful note has been taken, and I thank you cordially for the same.

My Committee learn with a certain amount of satisfaction that your endeavours to obtain a clear statement of the amounts chargeable under the heading of tso-li at all destinations in Kwangtung have elicited an official reply to the effect that, roughly speaking, most articles of foreign import are liable to pay a terminal tax of about 3 per cent. *ad valorem* after being cleared for their destination under transit pass. That the machinery for collecting this charge where it ought to be collected, viz., at the destination of the merchandise, is quite inadequate, affords ground for grave dissatisfaction, as a door is thereby opened to great abuses, which, nullify to a preposterous extent the privileges of the transit pass system—privileges it must be this Chamber's constant aim to uphold. In fact, it appears to the Committee, from the answer you have received from the Kwangtung Authorities, that we are almost as far from a knowledge of the actual internal taxation on foreign merchandise as we were before your application, and we shall feel obliged, before again addressing the British Minister on the question, if you will kindly let us know whether there is any likelihood of any change being effected in the native method of collection.

The present time appears to my Committee favourable for pressing the matter, and the Chinese Government may be willing to listen to proposals which are obviously calculated to eventually benefit their revenue.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

R. M. GRAY, Chairman.
To Byron Brennan Esq., C.M.G., H.B.M.'s Consul, Canton.

THE SEIZURE OF MR. WATTS'S COAL AT SAIWAN.

The following correspondence is attached to the minutes of the last meeting of the Chamber of Commerce:—

H.B.M.'s Consulate,
Canton, 26th March, 1898.

Sir,—Referring to my letter of the 18th instant, I beg to inform you that I have now received the Fuchuan Magistrate's explanation of his action in putting an embargo on the coal purchased by Mr. Watts at Saiwan in Kwangsi.

The explanation is that the coal was not the property of the seller and that the latter sold it to Mr. Watts whilst an action was pending as to its ownership.

I have communicated the Magistrate's ex-

planation direct to Mr. Watts.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

BYRON BRENNAN,
Consul.

The Chairman, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

1 Victoria View,
Kowloon, April 4th, 1898.

The Secretary, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Dear Sir,—Herewith I enclose a copy of the letter of H.B.M.'s Consul at Canton dated March 26th and my reply thereto.

The Consul's letter contains the report of the Magistrate at Fuchuan, as to his reason for the action taken at Saiwan when the people who sold coal to me were arrested and the coal seized.

I may add that if the man was doing wrong in selling coal he must have been doing it for a long time, and to a much larger extent with other people; in fact on the day I bought, and the following one, he was delivering coal to a Chinese purchaser, but as soon as he enters into a contract with a foreigner, it is discovered that he has incurred the punishment of arrest and imprisonment for himself and wife and forfeiture of the coal.

I beg to recommend the matter once more to the notice of the Chamber, and to suggest that it is a good opportunity to ask that the Viceroy issue definite instructions to his subordinates not to interfere with the sale of coal or other minerals to foreigners or their agents.—I am, dear sir, yours obediently,

FRANK W. WATTS.

H.B.M.'s Consulate,
Canton, 24th March, 1898.

Sir,—I have now received the report of the Fuchuan Magistrate explaining why the coal purchased by you from Ho Cheng Chang at Saiwan in Kwangsi was not allowed to be exported.

There was a dispute between the proprietor of the mine, Chow Chen Chih, and his foreman Ho Cheng Chang as to the quantity extracted, while case was still *sub judice*. The wife of Ho Cheng Chang sold to you certain coal claimed by Chow Chen Chih. The magistrate caused this coal to be seized until judgment in the suit was delivered.

Eventually the coal was adjudged to be the property of Chow Chen Chih.

Subsequently to this you purchased from Chow Chen Chih 20,000 catties of coal, which was rejected by you because it was inferior.

The Magistrate adds that there is no local demand for coal and the output of the mine cannot be disposed of unless it is exported, so that the local officials are far from wishing to put any obstructions in the way of exportation.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

E. BYRON BRENNAN,
Consul.

F. Watts, Esq., 1, Victoria View, Kowloon.

Victoria View,
Kowloon, 11th April, 1898.

Sir,—I now have to thank you for your favour dated March 26th containing the report of the Fu Chuen Magistrate to the Viceroy on the matter referred to you on November 27th, 1897, and also for an extract from that report in Chinese.

It is satisfactory that a reply has at last been obtained, but the fact that the Magistrate who sends the report is a different man to the one who caused the arrest of the people and consequent non delivery of coal justifies the fear expressed in my letter of January 18th that a delay in getting an answer would result in the proper man not being found when wanted.

The statement that there was a dispute between the proprietor of the mine and his foreman may or may not be true, but my complaint was that the man and his wife from whom I bought the coal were arrested and so prevented from completing their contract.

This same man, the seller, was to my own knowledge mining and selling coal for three months previously and according to report had been doing so for a much longer period, and also that on the day I bought the coal and the following one he was delivering to a local buyer; so the seller to me had been allowed to go on with his trade unmolested hitherto, but as soon as

I appear as a buyer he and his wife are arrested and the coal seized.

My interpreter stayed in the neighbourhood for about three weeks, so it was perfectly easy for the Magistrate to notify him and to ask that the balance of the purchase money be paid into the Yamen, but this he did not do.

These statements of facts are borne out by the written account of the matter by my interpreter, and dated January 18th, a copy of which is enclosed.

The assertion that I purchased 20,000 catties of coal from Chow Sun Chu (or Chow Chen Chih) and then rejected it as inferior is untrue; his statement to me was that he could not sell any coal until after Chinese New Year, then about four months distant.

The local demand for coal seems to have been sufficient to have caused it to be worked for many years past and the announcement that "the local officials are far from wishing to put any obstructions in the way of exportation" is satisfactory as far as it goes and for as much as it is worth, but it would be much more to the purpose if the Viceroy would notify the magistrates and officials concerned in the coal regions of Kweng Fung and Kwang Si, that when foreigners or their agents proceed there to purchase coal and make arrangements for its delivery, neither they nor the people they deal with are to be interfered with in any way but to be allowed to make their own arrangements without official interposition; then there might be a chance of thoroughly testing official sincerity in this matter and also the capabilities of this great coal district.

I must still maintain that through the action of the Fuchuan Magistrate I was prevented from carrying out what I was perfectly entitled to do and thereby suffered damage to the amount of expenses incurred, profit on coal bought, and loss from interruption of business as stated in my account of Dec. 20th, 1897, and further as it is quite useless to attempt to trade there until the people are freed from the fear of interference and exaction I must increase the claim for loss of profit on business for the intervening months as per memo. attached.—I am, &c.,

FRANK W. WATTS.

E. Byron Brennan, Esq., C.M.G., H.B.M.'s Consul, Canton.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL AND THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The following correspondence is attached to the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce:—

General Post Office,
Hongkong, 18th March, 1898.

Sir,—I have the honour to request you to be so good as to obtain the opinion of your Chamber on the suggestion that branch Post Offices for ordinary correspondence should be opened at the following places, viz:—

- (1) Queen's Road W. near Bonham Strand;
- (2) Wanchai; and
- (3) Kowloon.

I have no statistics on the subject, but am of opinion that the establishment of these branches would lighten the work of the Central Offices as regards both outgoing and incoming mails; and it would appear that the claims of these localities cannot much longer be ignored.

I should be glad to learn any modification of the proposal that may occur to the Chamber.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

A. M. THOMSON,
Postmaster General.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 25th March, 1898.

Sir,—I beg leave to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 18th inst. requesting the opinion of this Chamber on the suggestion that branch Post Offices for ordinary correspondence should be opened at (1) Queen's Road West near Bonham Strand, (2) Wanchai, and (3) Kowloon.

In reply I am instructed to say that, in the opinion of my Committee any step that will tend to accelerate the postal service is worth trial, but they are not in a position to ascertain

the requirements of the above localities. Before actually endorsing the proposed experiment, moreover, they would be glad to have an estimate of the approximate annual cost of maintenance of branch Post Offices near Bonham Strand and at Kowloon.

With reference to the proposal to open a branch at Wanchai, my Committee are inclined to think that this should be deferred until a trial has been made of the two first named branches.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

To Hon. A. M. Thomson, Postmaster General.

General Post Office,
Hongkong, 26th March, 1898.

Sir.—I have the honour to thank you for your letter of the 25th instant, and in reply to inform you that, as your Committee is not in a position to ascertain the requirements of the localities in question it is unnecessary to trouble them further in the matter.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

A. M. THOMSON,
Postmaster General.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

THE PLAGUE

The number of cases of plague reported during the week ended 16th April was 97 and the number of deaths 92.

The daily abstract for the present week is as follows:—

	Cases.	Deaths.
April 17...	7	10
" 18...	13	13
" 19...	27	13
" 20...	15	15
" 21...	18	22

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A CHINESE HOSPITAL FOR PLAGUE PATIENTS TO BE OPENED.

ANIMATED DISCUSSION.

On the 19th April a special meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held to consider the advisability of permitting a Chinese hospital for the reception of plague patients to be opened under the supervision of the Sanitary Board. The chair was occupied by the President (Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer), and there were also present: the Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), E. W. Brewin (Acting Registrar-General), the Hon. F. H. May (Captain Superintendent of Police), Mr. N. J. Ede, Dr. F. Clark (Medical Officer of Health) and Mr. C. Vivian Ladds (Colonial Veterinary Surgeon and Acting Secretary).

The PRESIDENT said that that meeting had been convened more especially at the request of the Captain Superintendent of Police to consider the question of the institution of a hospital managed by Chinese doctors.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE (interrupting)—You are not quite correct in saying "managed by Chinese doctors."

The PRESIDENT—You can correct me later on. Continuing, he said that personally he did not think it was at all advisable that such an institution should be established or allowed in the colony. It was quite out of the province of the Sanitary Board to discuss this question at all, because it involved the medical control of the sick. As far as he took it from the Bye-laws, all the Sanitary Board had to do was simply to provide for the removal to the *Hygeia* or other appointed place any person suffering from any infectious disease, but the question of the medical treatment of patients in such a hospital was a question which concerned the medical department. It is not clear from the Bye-laws that the Board has even the power to appoint a place. After the experience of the colony in 1894, especially in reference to the Glass Works Hospital and the Cattle Shed Hospital, this seemed so obvious, that in 1895, 1896, and 1897 the whole control of the medical treatment of those suffering from plague was, vested in the medical department, and to prove this he referred

them to a report written by the then President of the Sanitary Board, Mr. Francis A. Cooper, on the 6th of May, 1895, in which he stated that the Colonial Surgeon had made the necessary arrangements in respect of the treatment of cases in the hospital at Kennedy Town. They would notice that it was stated that the Colonial Surgeon had made the necessary arrangements—not the Sanitary Board. In his (the President's) report on the prevalence of the bubonic plague in the colony of Hongkong during the years 1895 and 1896, on page five they would see under the heading "distribution of work" the following:—"The work in connection with the outbreak of the plague was distributed, as follows:—The Sanitary Board undertook certain duties; the Medical Department undertook the care of the sick after their arrival in hospital, etc." They would notice he said the "Medical Department," and not the "Chinese quacks." In conclusion he asked the Acting Secretary to read the requisition with regard to the meeting.

The ACTING SECRETARY read the requisition, which was signed by Messrs. May, Brewin, and Ede.

The PRESIDENT said that with reference to the request to discuss confidentially the advisability of opening a Chinese plague hospital, he thought it was out of order, because the rule said that all meetings of the Board, whether in Committee of the whole or as a Board shall be public unless a motion is made to exclude strangers and carried by a majority of the members present. If that matter was to be considered confidentially, some member must make a motion that strangers be excluded.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE thought it was very desirable to have the subject ventilated in public. He only asked for a confidential meeting because he knew the President did not share his views, and he thought it would be better for the public to believe that they were unanimous on this point. He was not here in 1896, and therefore he could not comment on the measures taken then for the suppression of the bubonic plague. He was here in the year 1894. He had the honour of serving under one of the most able men who possibly could have been selected to combat the plague in this colony. He referred to Mr. Francis, Q.C., as chairman of the permanent committee of the Sanitary Board and the members who worked with him, one of whom was himself. They determined that they would construct their plague hospital according to the methods of western science. Before the epidemic had lasted 12 days Mr. Francis came to the conclusion that they would be wise in authorising the institution of a hospital at which Chinese who might have a desire to be treated after Chinese methods could have their wishes gratified, and accordingly the permanent committee authorised the institution of such a hospital, which was known as the Glass Works Hospital. The experience was that whereas the day before the opening of that hospital the number of plague cases which came to the notice of the permanent committee numbered, as far as his recollection went, about 25, no sooner was the Chinese hospital opened than the plague cases which came under their notice doubled—they became 50. Of course there was a good deal of comment in the colony about the justification of the committee's action, and he was convinced that if the Board opened such a hospital their action would be justified by a similar result. He did not know that at the beginning the Glass Works Hospital was all that could be desired as regarded management, but they must remember that it was opened within a fortnight of the outbreak of a serious epidemic which was wholly unknown to the colony up to then, and in fact to the civilised world, and naturally it took some little time for things to be straightened up. All he could say was that when the hospital was removed to a more suitable building, to the slaughter-house, and brought under the supervision of the medical department it was a very satisfactory hospital. He did not think anybody could find any fault with it in the matter of cleanliness or sanitary precautions. The treatment was another matter. Personally he did not see why a plague patient, if he liked to be treated by the methods he had been accustomed to from his youth, should not be so treated, and he must say he thought it an unwise thing in an epidemic of

that sort to try and cram their western science down the throats of a population of a quarter of a million who did not understand it, and who did not appreciate it. His object in advocating the opening of a hospital not under the management of the Chinese doctors, but under the control of the Sanitary Board and under the medical supervision of the officers of the Board or of the officers of the medical department, was that he felt convinced that they would, if they opened such a hospital, get a large number of plague cases into it which were now slipping through their fingers. It was perfectly obvious to anyone who had had anything to do with the present epidemic that there were a very large number of dead bodies being brought in every day of which they knew nothing. During the epidemic of 1894 there was nothing like the proportion of dead bodies picked up as there had been this year, and the reason was that the sick came into the hospital and died there. He found from Dr. Lowson's report of the plague of 1894 that though there were 2,500 bubonic plague patients brought into the Chinese hospital there were only 88 dead bodies brought in. Now dead bodies were being picked up at the rate of a dozen a day, and he ventured to say that considerably more than 50 per cent. of the cases which had come under the notice of the Board from the beginning of the epidemic had been dead cases. That was not a satisfactory state of affairs. And it was also well known to members of the Board that a large percentage of cases had drifted away to Kowloon and elsewhere. He sent the Medical Officer of Health a report only the previous day which showed that within a week some 20 cases had drifted out of the colony which never came under their notice. The President had made some remarks questioning the authority of the Board to interfere in the matter of medical treatment. He (Mr. May) said they had power under section 18 of the Bye-laws made under Ordinance 15 of 1894 to appoint a place where a person suffering from such disease should be removed.

The PRESIDENT—Will you read that section Mr. Secretary.

The ACTING SECRETARY read the section as follows—"The Sanitary Board by its officers may provide for the removal of and may remove to the *Hygeia* or other appointed place any person suffering from any such disease, and no removal shall take place except under the orders of such Board or of one of its officers, or of a legally qualified and registered medical practitioner, and then only in such a manner and with such precautions as the said body shall from time to time direct. No such removal, however, shall take place if the Medical Officer of Health or any legally qualified and registered medical practitioner certifies that such person was being lodged and cared for without danger to the public health."

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE contended that under that bye-law it was perfectly competent for the Board to appoint a Chinese hospital as a place where plague patients could be removed to.

At this point the PRESIDENT interrupted Mr. May with the remark, "That is the whole question; and what is to be understood by the term 'Chinese Hospital' in a British colony."

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—I say we may appoint any hospital we like—the Nethersole, the Tung Wah, or the Alice.

Mr. EDE—Any other appointed place we like.

The PRESIDENT—You could appoint the Gaol then.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—We could.

The PRESIDENT—That would be reducing the thing to an absurdity.

The ACTING REGISTRAR-GENERAL objected to these interruptions.

The PRESIDENT—Excuse me, but the President of the Board has power to speak.

The ACTING REGISTRAR-GENERAL—Or interrupt?

The PRESIDENT—I am not interrupting.

The ACTING REGISTRAR-GENERAL—Pardon me, sir.

The PRESIDENT (reading from the rules)—"It shall be the duty of the President to enforce these rules. When the President rises it shall be the duty of the member to resume his seat."

The ACTING REGISTRAR-GENERAL—But you have not risen.

The PRESIDENT—I apologise for not rising.

The ACTING REGISTRAR-GENERAL—May I ask what rule you are enforcing?

The PRESIDENT—Rule 17; rules of debate and Standing Orders.

The ACTING REGISTRAR-GENERAL—Has anyone infringed it?

The PRESIDENT—When the President rises any member speaking shall be seated. I take it that when I rose Mr. May resumed his seat.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—With these few remarks I beg to move the following resolution:—"That this Board do appoint a branch hospital to the Tung Wah Hospital, to be established on a site to be approved by the Board, as a place to which patients suffering from plague may be removed, provided always that such hospital be under the control of the Sanitary Board and under the supervision of one or more duly qualified European medical practitioners, and that the patient be allowed the option of being treated according to western medical science or Chinese medical methods, and that the burial of those who die in the hospital and the removal of patients therefrom be conducted under regulations to be approved by the Board and under the supervision of the doctors."

Mr. EDE, in seconding, said he entirely agreed with what had fallen from the Captain Superintendent of Police. He would beg, however, to emphasise the particular point in the requisition in which it asked that a hospital be opened under the control and supervision of the Sanitary Board and its medical officers. The President's remarks hinged entirely upon the supposition that the hospital would be under Chinese doctors.

The PRESIDENT—The Captain Superintendent of Police stated that those who might have a desire to be treated after Chinese methods could have their wishes gratified.

Mr. EDE—I have taken your words down, and you said "Control of Chinese doctors."

The PRESIDENT—I regret that I must call you to order.

Mr. EDE—Very well; I will sit down.

The PRESIDENT—What I object to is that patients should be allowed to be treated by Chinese-native practitioners. If the Chinese are to be treated according to their methods the hospital must be under Chinese medical control. (To the Acting Secretary)—Will you kindly read the motion which has been proposed.

Mr. EDE said he did not allude to the motion but to the remarks made by the President with reference to the requisition convening the meeting. In that requisition it was distinctly stated that it was to consider the advisability of appointing a bubonic plague hospital "under the control and supervision of the Sanitary Board and its medical officers." In speaking of that the President mentioned that the requisition was to have a hospital under the control of Chinese doctors, which was quite a different thing. Mr. Ede added that he entirely agreed with what had been said by the Captain Superintendent of Police as to the effect his proposal would have upon diminishing the number of dead bodies found in the streets and the number of people who rushed off to Kowloon. He thought it would be a very excellent thing. It had worked before, and he thought it ought to work now quite well.

The ACTING REGISTRAR-GENERAL, in supporting, said they ought not to compel the Chinese to receive European food and medicine when by adopting a different method in 1894 the number of cases brought to the notice of the authorities was doubled at once.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH said he should just like to point out that neither the mover nor the seconder of the resolution had given them any hints as to what the objections of the Chinese were to the present system, so he must imagine what they were and deal with them. The objections he had heard made to the removal of plague patients to the Kennedy Town Hospital were that they were completely cut off from all religious ceremonies which were an integral part of the Chinese treatment of diseases, that they were entirely separated from their relatives, and lastly, and so far as he could gather leastly, that they did not obtain Chinese medical treatment. The two first objections

could to his mind be got over, but the third one he thought it was impossible to get over. He thought that in the interests of humanity it would be an evil for the Government of a colony such as this to recognise in any way the so-called Chinese treatment of disease, and especially the treatment of infectious disease. Dr. Clark explained the manner in which he thought the two first objections could be got over—by providing a shelter for the relatives of the patients and another for the priest, or whoever it was who did duty on the occasion of the religious ceremonies in question—and continuing said his own experience was that the Chinese were not very wise, but so far as the coolie class were concerned they did not attach any very great importance to Chinese doctors, who were in many cases most ignorant and illiterate men. Under these circumstances he felt inclined to move an amendment, unless Mr. May would consent to omit the words "according to Chinese methods" from his resolution. He could not possibly consent to support any resolution which gave countenance to the quackery of the so-called Chinese doctors.

The PRESIDENT—I propose as an amendment to Dr. Clark's amendment—

Mr. EDE—But it has not been seconded.

The ACTING REGISTRAR-GENERAL said he would second it as a matter of form. He added that what Dr. Clark objected to had already been sanctioned, and he did not think they need go back on what the Government had already decided. It would be different if western science had shown that it was capable of curing the disease. But he thought 98 per cent. of the people attacked died in 1894 and 88 per cent. this year. Really they had nothing to do with the treatment under which people chose to die. At home a father was liable to be proceeded against if he did not procure proper medical treatment for his child, but a grown-up person could choose his own medical treatment.

The PRESIDENT—They are compelled by law to be isolated in an infectious hospital if they are suffering from an infectious disease.

The ACTING REGISTRAR-GENERAL said that this had nothing to do with isolation. Mr. May had already proposed that this should be an isolated hospital. What they objected to was compelling them to be treated by European doctors.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—I rise to a point of order. No member can speak twice in Committee.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE said he was not prepared to omit the words mentioned by Dr. Clark from his resolution because if he did it would do away with the utility of the hospital such as he wished to establish. If they said people must be treated according to western methods they simply made the hospital a little more attractive to the Chinese by adopting the proposals of Dr. Clark. The fact of the matter was that the Chinese coolie had been treated by the Chinese quack doctor from being a little child and he wished to be treated by him still, and he asked members of the Board to put themselves in the same position. He ventured to say that not a single Englishman there would go to a Chinese hospital to be treated if he could help it, and it was just the same with the Chinese coolie—he did not understand the treatment of the European doctors.

The PRESIDENT—I move as an amendment to Dr. Clark's amendment "that the Medical Department undertake the care of sick upon their arrival in hospital and that the Sanitary Board undertake all duties in connection with the removal of plague cases to the hospital." In 1894 the mortality amongst the Chinese when the native doctors were allowed full scope was 93.4 per cent., in 1898 when the treatment was entirely in the hands of the Medical Department it was 74 per cent. These figures speak for themselves. I have carefully read Dr. Lowson's report more than once during the last week, and cannot find that it substantiates what Mr. May has stated, namely, that the day after the opening of the Glassworks Hospital the number of cases which came to the notice of the authority was 50 a day whilst it was 25 before. I could not find any statistics in the Sanitary Board offices which bore that out, and I shall

be much obliged if Mr. May can give the actual dates and figures. I see from Dr. Lowson's report that "On the 21st May, 1894, the Glassworks Hospital was opened and this relieved our staff to a certain extent. The hygiene of this hospital, however, caused a great deal of trouble and it was only by the occasional employment of severe measures that this place was prevented from becoming a certain death trap to every one who entered it." For my part I do not think that the Chinese object to Western methods and my experience at Kennedytown Hospital during the years 1895, 1896, and 1897 and this year proves this. I say if a Chinese Hospital is allowed we shall have endless troubles.

The amendment was not seconded.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

The Standing Orders having been suspended on the motion of the CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, seconded by Mr. EDE,

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE proposed that the Board appoint a sub-committee consisting of the Medical Officer of Health and Mr. Brewin to approach the committee of the Tung Wah Hospital as to the institution of a branch hospital on a site to be approved by the Board and to make the necessary enquiries and arrangements.

Mr. EDE seconded.

The PRESIDENT pointed out that under Standing Order 31 it is necessary to have three members on a committee and suggested the addition of the Captain Superintendent of Police to the sub-committee, and with this addition the resolution was adopted.

THE EMIGRATION OF PLAGUE PATIENTS.

On the suggestion of the Medical Officer of Health the question of the emigration of plague patients was considered as a matter of urgency.

The ACTING SECRETARY read correspondence on the subject, including a communication from the Medical Officer of Health on his reasons for objecting to the resolution passed by the Sanitary Board on the subject on the 14th inst.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH proposed that the resolution dealing with the emigration of plague patients be rescinded on the ground that it would lead to the villages in the locality which were practically unaffected becoming contaminated.

The PRESIDENT seconded, and

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, in supporting, said he only proposed the resolution in question as a matter of tactics, his object being to get the Board to permit the institution of a Chinese hospital. With a Chinese hospital in the colony there was no excuse for people going outside the limits.

Mr. EDE proposed as an amendment that the rescinding of the resolution be postponed until the Chinese hospital was provided.

The ACTING REGISTRAR-GENERAL seconded. On the amendment being put to the vote it was lost and the motion was carried.

THE CLEANSING OF DWELLINGS.

The PRESIDENT—said there was a question from the Acting Governor, who enquired whether the inmates of Chinese houses were allowed to cleanse their houses under the supervision of the Board's officials.

The MEDICAL OFFICER said they were, and undertook to explain to His Excellency the system adopted by the Board.

HOUSE TO HOUSE VISITATION.

On the suggestion of the CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, it was decided to take steps for the increase of the staff employed in house to house visitation.

THE DISINFECTATION OF EUROPEAN OFFICES AND HOUSES.

The PRESIDENT—I take this opportunity of calling attention to the insanitary condition in which many of the business offices in the centre of the town are kept. Quite recently I have myself seen many of them; the staircases are kept very dirty, and as there are frequently numbers of Chinese coolies and messengers hanging about there is a fear of infection taking root and growing in this dirt. My remarks also apply to the servants' quarters attached to many of the European residences. Unless the occupiers occasionally inspect these the Chinese servants will not keep them clean. A simple method of prevention is to place 4lb of chloride of lime in an ordinary

Chinese chattie, which costs a few cents, moisten it occasionally with water, and this will suffice to evolve sufficient chlorine gas to keep the premises sweet for a fortnight. It was found in 1894 and 1896 that when this was done all over the town by the sanitary disinfecting and cleansing gangs the numbers of plague cases occurring rapidly lessened.

The Board then adjourned.

IMPORTANT MEETING.

On the 21st April a meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held under the Chairmanship of the President (Dr. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer), there being also present the Hon. F. H. May (Captain Superintendent of Police), the Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), Mr. A. W. Brewin (Acting Registrar-General), Mr. N. J. Ede, and Dr. F. Clark (Acting Secretary and Medical Officer of Health).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the special meeting held on Tuesday were read and confirmed.

THE MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF POISONS.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH submitted a copy of the draft Bye-laws for regulating the manufacture and sale of poisons.

The PRESIDENT said they had been to the Attorney-General, and he thought there were one or two alterations. He would move that, as altered by the Attorney-General, the Bye-laws be printed and circulated among the members.

Mr. EDE seconded, and the motion was carried.

THE CREMATION OF INDIANS.

Mr. J. M. Beck, of the Telegraph Company, wrote as follows to the Secretary of the Sanitary Board:—"9th April. The watchman living at our establishment at Lapsapwan, close to the Plague Cemetery, complains that the bodies of some Sindh men (plague corpses) are being burned close by, the smoke, &c., causing a nuisance by entering the dwelling. I would suggest that some other spot further along the beach might be selected for the purpose."

Minutes appended:—

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—If this is being done it is on the authority of the officials of the Kennedytown Hospital. I have no knowledge of any cremation of corpses at Kennedytown.

Dr. Lowson—Since May, 1894, this place (about 200 yards west of Kennedytown Hospital and 125 yards east of the Telegraph house) has been used as a burning ghaut. No Act of Parliament made it so, but I understand it was legalised by some Act late in 1894, and it has been customary to burn plague Indian bodies there, with only one or two exceptions. I have examined the locality again carefully this morning and still think it admirably suited for the purpose. The watchman at the Telegraph House is a fussy old Indian, and I can scarcely believe the smoke created more nuisance than the smoke of his own kitchen. It has never been complained of before, and some quarrel may be at the bottom of this. If any more are burned I have told the wardmaster to direct the burning on a spot somewhat to the east of the present site. If it is necessary to declare this a burning ground it had better be done at once, as occasion may arise at any moment for its use again.

In reply to a communication from the President asking what he advised, the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH reported—This matter should be reported to the Sanitary Board to be dealt with under Bye-law 19, made under section 13 of Ordinance 15 of 1894.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH wrote the Secretary on the 12th inst.:—"I beg to give notice that I will move at the next regular meeting of the Sanitary Board 'That the Sanitary Board directs in accordance with Bye-law 19, made under section 13 of Ordinance 15 of 1894, that a site some 150 yards to the west of Kennedytown Hospital and 150 yards to the east of the Telegraph House, may be used for the cremation of the bodies of persons that have died of bubonic plague, cholera, smallpox, or such other epidemic, endemic, or contagious disease as may from time to time be duly notified in the Government Gazette, in accordance with the custom of the race to which the deceased belonged.'"

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, in moving this resolution, said it was a purely formal motion, and had no connection with the resolution recently passed by the Board as to the cremation of Chinese. It related to the cremation of Indians, and it was required by the Bye-law named in the notice of motion that the place which was appointed for the purpose should be appointed by the Board.

The PRESIDENT, alluding to the words "in accordance with the custom of the race" in the Bye-law, asked why they had been introduced into the Bye-law. They were not in the Bye-law under Ordinance 15, 1894, and he had not been able to ascertain why the Bye-law had been altered to this extent. There must be some reason for it.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH said the only reason he could imagine was the reason he suggested the other day. When the Bye-laws were reconstructed and came before the Board there was no objection. Of course he was only speaking from memory.

The PRESIDENT—That prevents absolutely the Chinese from being cremated.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE said they were inserted to obviate the doing of what was proposed to be done by the Board the other day, and that was the tramping underfoot of a custom of a race by cremating the Chinese. He seconded the motion.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH said that this was only a temporary measure; it did not bind them except for the time being.

The motion was carried.

THE DISPOSAL OF DISEASED CARCASSES.

A letter having been received from the COLONIAL SECRETARY concerning the advisability of burying the carcasses of infected cattle in quick lime,

The COLONIAL VETERINARY SURGEON reported—In all outbreaks of rinderpest or cattle plague which have occurred in the United Kingdom up to the present time (the last was a small one in 1897) it has been the invariable practice to bury the carcasses of the infected animals in their skins not less than six feet deep in earth, and to cover them with quicklime. This is also done in the event of any animals dying or which have been destroyed on account of anthrax infection. Such being the case I am of opinion that if these measures are considered to be sufficient in the United Kingdom, where the strictest precautions are always taken to prevent the spread of animal diseases, the same procedure will meet all requirements in the colony of Hongkong.

This report was forwarded to the Colonial Secretary by Dr. Clark, Acting Secretary of the Sanitary Board, who remarked, "I am directed to add that the Sanitary Board do not concur in the opinion expressed therein."

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY, replying on April 6th, wrote:—"His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government much regrets that the Sanitary Board does not concur in the opinion of the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon that the carcasses of infected cattle should be buried in quick lime and not burned. His Excellency is of firm opinion that the system of burying in quick lime must have been found efficacious or it would not have been employed in similar circumstances in Great Britain, and desires me to express the hope that the Sanitary Board will adopt the cheaper, the more rapid, and the completely satisfactory process of disposing of the carcasses advised by Mr. Ladds."

Minutes of April 9th:—

Mr. N. J. EDE—As already mentioned, I think a place for burying these animals should be set apart and never used for any other purpose. I think that would be quite safe. Burning is safer of course, but too expensive.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—I agree with the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—It seems to me that either burning or burying under six feet of earth would be equally efficacious, and that the Board should adopt the cheaper method. I see much difficulty in digging nine feet deep on the hill-side.

The ACTING REGISTRAR-GENERAL—I agree with the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, but why not sink the bodies at sea.

On the 16th instant the Medical Officer of Health gave notice that at the next regular meeting of the Board he would move:—"That

the resolution of the Board passed at a special meeting held on Tuesday, the third of March, 1898, with reference to the disposal of the carcasses of diseased animals be rescinded."

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, in proposing this motion, said his reason for doing so was that there was a resolution standing on the minutes of the Board to the effect that the "carcasses of any cattle which die must be burned, not buried." So long as that resolution stood the officers of the Board were bound to carry out that process of the destruction of the carcass. But as members were aware the Government were disinclined to support the Board on this point. The Government thought the burying of a carcass was equally as efficacious as the cremation of the carcass and was less expensive. Although the Board had under by-law discretion as to the disposal of carcasses they had none when it came to a question of funds, and it practically rested with the Government to say what should be done.

The PRESIDENT, in seconding, said that although burning was a more scientific means of disposing of cattle dying from rinderpest, it seemed the custom in England to bury them seven feet below the earth. When he supported the original motion he did so because he thought that they would have a difficulty in burying seven feet below the level of the earth, on account of there being so much granite. He found he was mistaken.

The motion was carried.

THE INSANITARY PROPERTIES COMMISSION.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH said he had received a report from the Colonial Secretary forwarding the report of the Insanitary Properties Commission.

On the motion of the CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, seconded by the PRESIDENT, it was decided that the matter be deferred to the next ordinary meeting of the Board.

THE ALLEGED IMPORTATION OF DEAD MEAT.

The PRESIDENT reported:—"Macao, April 7th—I have the honour to report that undoubtedly rinderpest exists and has been raging around Canton for the past two months. It is not confined to Canton, but is distributed all over the delta of the West River. Accompanied by Mr. Brennan, the British Consul-General, I visited the Shameen Dairy Farm yesterday morning and ascertained that 12 days ago sickness commenced amongst the cattle at that farm, but of 32 head of cattle 13 have been affected up to the present date. Of these 13 four have died. There are at present nine sick. On inspecting the cattle with Mr. Brennan I found another that was evidently suffering from rinderpest (cattle plague). It presented the following symptoms:—(a) running at the nose and nostrils, (b) laboured breathing, (c) discharge from the vagina, (d) general weakness, prostration, (e) on taking its temperature it was found to be 104. I could not ascertain what had been done with the carcasses of the four that had died. I pointed out to the Consul the danger to the public health of the settlement that this disease constituted, and recommended (1) that all the cattle on the farm be immediately slaughtered, (2) that the dairy sheds be burned, (3) the ground on which they stood should be covered with chloride of lime and dug over, (4) the slaughtered cattle should be burned, or failing the practicability of this taken out to sea, heavily and securely weighted, and sunk. I fear from what was stated that the carcasses of the diseased cattle may have been sold to Chinese butchers. Mr. Lyndberg, the manager of the farm, informed me that he cured one cow last week that had had the disease, but this I very much doubt. N. B.—Since returning to Macao I have received information of the existence for some weeks back of rinderpest in this colony. I am making further enquiries, and will report later. The Acting British Consul is my informant."

Minutes appended:—

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—The protection of the colony from the importation of diseased meat is already provided for by section 22 of Ordinance 17 of 1887 and substituted Bye-law 14 made under schedule D of that Ordinance.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR—I think it hardly likely that the recommendation to carry out dead cattle to sea from Canton would be carried out.

The PRESIDENT—In my opinion beef and pork should not be imported into this colony from districts where we know that disease among cows and pigs exists.

The COLONIAL VETERINARY SURGEON—I do not think there is any danger of rinderpest meat getting into our markets from Canton. I will take extra precautions to prevent it. The police might also be notified.

Mr. BRENNAN, H.B.M. Consul at Canton, wrote to the Colonial Secretary on April 2nd:—I sent you to-day a telegram to the effect that several cases of bubonic plague were occurring in Canton daily. It is impossible to obtain accurate information, but amongst the Chinese themselves there is a belief that the disease is spreading in the city. I have also the honour to report that rinderpest is prevalent among cattle in Canton and vicinity. Some of the cows in the foreign dairy have died and more are attacked. The Canton butchers are buying the diseased carcasses and selling the meat for food; some of this may find its way to Hongkong.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE said he had had a steam-launch on the look-out for vessels from Canton and Macao, and with the exception of about a couple of pounds of beef-steak and a couple of pounds of kidneys from Macao—someone thinking that what they got in Hongkong was not good enough—he could not discover that any meat was being imported into the colony.

The PRESIDENT proposed that the correspondence lie on the table.

Mr. EDE seconded, and the motion was carried.

IS IT LIKELY?

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH submitted a letter from the Colonial Secretary concerning the prevention of persons suffering from plague coming to Hongkong from Kwangtung Province.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—This is the last place they will come to (Hear, hear).

HOUSE CLEANSING.—LETTER FROM THE ACTING GOVERNOR.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH reported on April 16th—Please inform the President that the house to house visitation gangs are now all engaged in house to house cleansing work, the latter necessarily including the former. I do not consider it necessary to have duplicate gangs in each district, as the health districts are now comparatively small, and there are already a police officer, two soldiers, two Chinese foremen, and forty coolies at work in each of them. The Acting Registrar-General has, I understand, explained to the Chinese that any houses found in a cleanly condition by the officers appointed by the Board and approved by the officers administering the Government will be exempt from the operations of the cleansing gangs, and I am exercising as great discretion in this matter as is compatible with the safety of the community. I hope to be able to commence operations in British Kowloon on Monday next, the 18th instant, but at present I have no authority from the Government to employ the necessary staff. Mr. Browne's appointment by the Board has been forwarded for the approval of His Excellency the officer administering the Government, and he will supervise the cleansing gangs in that district. Chloride of lime has been in use in all the public latrines for the past month, and is also being distributed by the cleansing gangs, but fortunately the stock of this disinfectant in the colony is already exhausted, although a fresh consignment is expected early next week.

Minutes appended:—

Mr. N. J. EDE—Referring to this matter I would like to see the Chinese have the opportunity of cleansing their own houses on being notified that cleansing is needed. I have heard complaints that the gangs are very rough and that the coolies pilfer. If after getting notice the tenant or owner does not cleanse then it should be done for them, and I think at their expense.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—I see no reason for change of procedure now. When

the trouble is over I would like to see the onus of keeping the houses clean thrown on the owners and if neglected done at their cost.

The ACTING REGISTRAR-GENERAL—I agree with Mr. Ede. There is no doubt some provision for inflicting a penalty in case the occupants do not clean their house property.

The following communication from His Excellency Major-General Black was submitted:—A deputation on behalf of the Chinese population interviewed me yesterday.

1.—They protested against the proposal to burn dead bodies found in the street.

2.—They stated that the reason for dead bodies of plague-stricken Chinese being put into the streets was their fear and dislike of having their premises invaded by the house-cleaning gang, the forcible removal into the street of the furniture from every room in the house, the consequent breakage of some of their poor furniture, and the bondage to which all the inmates were subjected.

3.—They beg that in case of house to house visitation the inmates should have the option of cleansing the rooms of their own flats.

4.—That in case of a death from plague, or in the presence of a plague patient, the rooms of the house other than that in which the case occurred should be left to the inmates within a reasonable time to cleanse, the room where the case occurred only being fumigated and disinfected by the whitewash party.

5.—They ask, further, that sick Chinamen be permitted to leave the colony if they desire.

I am of opinion that, subject to necessary and proper supervision, the inmates of a house should, if they desire it, have the option of cleansing it themselves. If measures contrary to the customs of the Chinese and without due regard to their prejudices be enforced, you have instead of assistance from the people a dogged inert mass of opposition to fight against, which would even prove more detrimental to the object aimed at than even a less thorough application of the means used to attain it.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH said that as far as the disinfection of the whole house was concerned, he had written to the Colonial Secretary and also to His Excellency that in 1896, when they had a number of cases of plague, he pointed out in his annual report that there were 25 houses in which repeat cases occurred after the lapse of a greater interval than 10 days, and speaking roughly six of these 25 houses were houses in which the repeat cases occurred on another floor. He was convinced there were one or two other cases of which he had lost the certificates. There was a very strong presumption that if a house became infected with plague the plague infection might spread from an upper floor to a lower floor and vice versa, and in consequence in 1896 he gave instructions that whenever a case occurred the whole house was to be disinfected. He knew the Chinese were very anxious that the regulation should be done away with. Personally he did not feel justified in doing away with it, and as he pointed out to the Colonial Secretary the responsibility rested largely upon him, because the Bye-law said the work was to be done to the satisfaction of the Medical Officer of Health.

The PRESIDENT thought Dr. Clark spoke good sound sense. People might be allowed to cleanse their own houses provided it was done to the satisfaction of either the Inspector of Nuisances or the Medical Officer of Health. They would observe that the deputation said that "the reason for dead bodies of plague patients being put into the streets was their fear and dislike of having their premises invaded by the house-cleaning gang, the forcible removals of their furniture from every room in the house, the consequent breakage of some of their poor furniture, and the bondage to which the inmates were subjected." There was nothing about their objecting to being treated by Western medical methods.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, interrupting the Acting Registrar-General, suggested that they should take the points mentioned in the Governor's letter one by one. He thought they had better settle the question as to the disinfection of the houses first.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—With regard to the suggested cremation of Chinese corpses found in the street, I may take it that that has been settled.

Mr. EDE—Is it against the law?

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—The Board carried a resolution by a majority, The Government say they won't carry it out; so that is finished.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH said that as to allowing people to cleanse their own houses he might be allowed to explain that they were allowed to do so. After a notice varying from one, two, or three days the inspecting officers appointed by the Board—Mr. May, Mr. Browne, Mr. Bryan, and himself—went round and inspected these houses, and upon their written certificate if it was found dirty it was ordered to be cleansed, and if it was found cleansed it passed. He did not think the Chinese could ask for more than that. They did not want to get the permission of the Board to cleanse their houses. They all knew that this cleansing was being done. He had repeatedly explained to Chinese that they were allowed to cleanse their houses, and that if their houses were found clean they would not be interfered with.

The ACTING REGISTRAR-GENERAL said that all they asked for was that they should be given notice when the inspecting officer was going round, and he understood that that was done now. They asked for three days' notice.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH said he did not think it reasonable for them to ask for notice. It was the duty of every occupier to keep his house clean always, and not merely at this special time. Officers had been appointed to go round and see that all houses were clean, and if a man neglected to cleanse his house until someone gave him official notice to do so he did not think he was worthy of much consideration.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE said he would like to point out that they could under by-law 25, Ordinance 15 of 1894, which was passed by the Legislative Council after a protracted consideration—and he might add that it was passed unanimously by a Council on which they were two Chinese members and various influential members who were property owners—order a house to be cleansed. Therefore it was no new thing they were putting into force. As the Medical Officer of Health had very justly observed, it was the duty of every householder to keep his house clean. Of course in making an inspection one selected streets in which the houses were most likely to be in a dirty condition, and although the occupants in many cases had possibly taken some trouble to cleanse their premises they had not done so in a thorough and satisfactory manner. They had only got to lift up the bed board and remove the large number of miscellaneous articles stored beneath and they found that a brush had not touched these particular corners. In such a house, especially if it was situated in a lane where there had been several cases of plague, it was only reasonable that the Board's Officers should take the precaution of thoroughly cleaning out that house. Although the Bye-law gave them power to do so forthwith, it was not the practice to do so forthwith. Twenty-four hours' notice at least was given to the people to remove their household goods into the street, and they did so. He had not seen any of that throwing of furniture out of windows that they heard so much about. People removed their goods, the gangs—who were under specially selected officers—arrived on the succeeding day, and cleansed the place, and the people the same day removed back into their houses. He did not think the public realised the enormous difficulty of getting the coolie class to properly clean out the cubicles on each floor in which they lived. To allow the occupants in every case to do the work themselves would require an enormous amount of supervision. They had only a limited number of officers and they must have the thing done with some sort of regularity. They began, which one lane, and they liked to finish that and then go on with the next. On this point he moved that the Board reply to the effect that it does not see its way to modify the procedure which was laid down in Bye-law 25 under Ordinance 15 of 1894.

The PRESIDENT, in seconding, suggested the advisability of this house to house inspection being carried on in non-epidemic times, as the Chinese were undoubtedly a very dirty race—at any rate those who live in this colony were. The Sanitary Board had power under sect. 16 of

ordinance 15 of 1894 to cleanse and limewash any domestic building in the colony that is in a dirty condition by giving one week's notice.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS strongly supported all that had fallen from the lips of the President and Vice-president. He hoped that when the plague was over the Board would wake up to the fact that they had power to declare, if necessary, a house unfit for human habitation. He did not know until now that they had this power, and he hoped that in future they would use it.

The motion was carried.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH said another point was as to whether patients should be allowed to leave the colony. He thought that matter was dealt with at the meeting on Tuesday.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE begged to move that the conditions agreed to on March 21st, 1896, by which persons suffering from bubonic plague were permitted to leave the colony, be rescinded, and that in substitution thereof the following conditions be made:—Any person suffering from bubonic plague who wishes to leave the colony may embark between the hours 6 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. at a wharf to be erected on the New Reclamation in front of Bonham Strand West subject to the following conditions: (1) The patient or his friends shall notify the patient's name and address or addresses at which he has been residing during the last 10 days to the officer on duty at the wharf; (2) that the destination to which the patient is to be removed shall be notified to the officer on duty; (3) that the patient or his friend must provide a licensed junk or a licensed boat, the latter to be towed by a launch, in which the patient is to be removed, and furnish the officer on duty with the number of such junk or boat and the name of such steam launch; (4) that no removal shall be permitted to places within a radius of 40 miles of the colony; (5) that on his return to the colony the patient shall at once proceed to the Water Police Station at Tsim-tsat-sui for disinfection. He had made enquiries of the people at Tung Wah Hospital as to the objections which the Chinese entertained to the conditions of the regulations of 1896, which he saw only one patient availed himself of, and he was informed that the patient had to go with other patients in a sort of common ambulance boat, and that he was towed in this way to Canton by certain public steamers. Persons who desired to remove from the colony, particularly if they had a Chinese branch hospital, would be principally persons of the better class. They would like to go in a boat of their own selection, either in a sailing boat of sufficient capacity to undertake a long journey, or in a smaller boat towed by a launch. The Committee to whom he had spoken were not in favour of patients going to Kowloon City and other places in the immediate neighbourhood. They recognised the danger to the colony if this were done, and they also recognised the danger of infecting the numerous villages which were a little further away, and therefore they were quite willing to accept the condition that a radius of 40 miles should be the limit within which removals should not be permitted. These conditions were now on trial. It would certainly ease the Chinese mind a good deal if they knew it was in their power, if they were attacked with plague, in preference to going to a hospital in the colony to go to a hospital in Canton or even at their own home. He proposed that a copy of these regulations be forwarded to the Government; and that the Government be asked to erect a suitable wharf with a shelter attached with the least possible delay, and that they notify the Board when the wharf is ready.

Mr. EDE seconded, and the motion was passed.

THE ANALYST'S REPORT.

In his report for the quarter ended 31st March Mr. F. Browne, Acting Government Analyst, reported that he had analysed two samples of whisky, one of which he found adulterated. One sample of rum, one of port, and two of ground nut oil he found genuine.

THE MORTALITY RETURNS.

The mortality statistics for the week ended April 2nd showed the death rate to be 29.4 against 14.3 for the corresponding week last year.

THE BOARD AND THEIR CRITICS.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE took occasion at this point to refer to the letter which appeared in our yesterday's issue which criticised some of the actions of the Board. He remarked that he should like to know to what extent house to house visitation had been carried out in each district which has been declared infected. Of course they had the wise man of the *Daily Press* telling them that morning that they ought to do a great many things, and he told them they ought to discontinue house to house visitation. He did not know whether he had had any experience of dealing with plague. He did not remember his name cropping up in connection with any plague work, and he was inclined to think his knowledge of plague had been gained from reading reports, &c. He evidently did not know a great deal about the subject, because he talked as if the measures taken were prompted by the peculiar idiosyncrasies of the official mind. It would be well to remind him that every measure which was being adopted now was adopted in 1894, when that Board had a non-official majority. The only objection was that up to the present the Chinese branch hospital had not been opened, but it was about to be opened. With regard to house to house visitation, he himself thought it was the most important measure which could be taken until they had so far educated their population that they would go voluntarily and report each case as it occurred. He was afraid that whatever measures they might take there would always be some people foolish enough to conceal their cases. In that case house to house visitation would have to go on. He had in his two districts instituted a pretty thorough house to house visitation, and he would like to take the sense of the Board as to how far the policy should be pursued, and as to how far it was being applied and could be applied to other districts.

The PRESIDENT said, in reply to the Vice-President's request, the Acting Secretary was furnishing for the information of the Governor a detailed statement in reference to house to house visitation and cleansing work, and when that was finished it would be circulated among the members.

THE PROPOSED HOSPITAL FOR CHINESE PLAQUE PATIENTS.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH presented the report of the Sub-Committee with regard to the establishment of a branch hospital to the Tung Wah Hospital for the reception and treatment of plague patients on the conditions mentioned in the resolution passed at the meeting of the Sanitary Board on Tuesday. He said the Tung Wah Hospital Committee were willing and anxious to establish such a branch hospital and to bear the expense of its maintenance as far as the food and medicine of the patients and the provision of a Chinese staff of doctors and servants were concerned. They strongly recommended that the Government should lend to them one-half of the Cattle Depot at Kennedytown for the purpose of such a branch hospital.

The PRESIDENT said he considered the sheds in question most unsuitable for the purpose for which they were required. They were open with the exception on either side of a wall some six feet high, and on a day like that patients would run the risk of contracting chest complaints. The President mentioned other objections to the Cattle Depot, and continuing said that he had seen Dr. Thompson and four or five influential members of the committee of Tung Wah Hospital that morning and explained to them the advisability of utilising mat sheds on the foreshore to the north of Kennedytown for the purpose. He had since received a letter from Dr. Thompson saying that he had discussed the matter with four of the directors of the Hospital and they had decided in favour of his proposal. I wish it to be understood, however, the speaker continued, that I object *in toto* to the establishment of a hospital where so called Chinese practice is allowed. In this I am supported by Dr. Clark. To yield in this respect is to throw back the colony for years and to sacrifice the future for the present. We have yet to learn that yielding in the least to Chinese prejudices will lessen the number of dead bodies put out in the streets.

Mr. EDE asked if these were the sheds used for small-pox patients.

The PRESIDENT said they had been disinfected and had not been used for a few weeks.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE reported as to an interview he had had with the Hospital Committee that afternoon, saying that they had declared themselves ready to accept the three mat sheds and to convert them into a branch hospital, and they showed him a plan of some other mat sheds which would be necessary. He begged to recommend that the Government be asked to defray the cost of the extra mat-sheds which would be required. It would not amount to very much, and the Tung Wah Hospital Committee would be put to considerable expense. He did not see why the Government should not share in it.

Mr. EDE seconded, and the motion was carried.

THE OCCUPANTS OF INFECTED HOUSES.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH said it would be remembered that at the latter end of 1897 the Board decided that should any case of plague occur in a house after the removal of the patient the occupants should be removed from the house and given the option of going to the Board's shelters or some other house for about 10 days. That system had been carried out up to the present, but seeing the number of cases now occurring weekly it occurred to him that to compel the occupants of some 100 or 200 houses to go elsewhere would result in overcrowding other houses, and he should be inclined to let the arrangement lapse for the present.

It was decided that this recommendation should be acted upon.

The Board then adjourned.

HONGKONG AND ITS LIQUORS.— ARE THEY DELETERIOUS?

SPECIAL MEETING OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

On Saturday, 16th April, a special meeting of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace was held in the Chamber of Commerce Room, City Hall, "for the purpose of considering questions which have arisen in connection with the commission to enquire into the sale of deleterious liquors" in the colony. The meeting was convened by circular signed by Commander W. C. H. Hastings, Acting Police Magistrate. Some time ago the Justices of Peace submitted a series of resolutions to the Government recommending that steps should be taken for the prevention of the sale of injurious liquors in the colony. A reply was received from the Government, and a meeting of the Justices was held on Thursday, January 31st, to consider this reply. Subsequently a Commission was appointed to go into the subject, and before this Commission evidence was given by the Captain-Superintendent of Police, the Hon. F. H. May.

At the meeting on Saturday the chair was occupied by Commander Hastings, and there were also present, Rev. R. F. Cobbold, Dr. Stedman, Dr. Lowson, Dr. Clark, Messrs. G. Murray Bain, J. J. Francis, A. J. May, H. P. Tooker, C. V. Ladds, R. C. Wilcox, C. Ford, E. W. Mitchell, G. Sharp, and C. W. Duggan.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, by direction I have invited you to come here to ask you two questions—The Government appointed a Commission on the 14th February. Mr. Wodehouse, one of the members, has left the colony, Dr. Hartigan has resigned, and Mr. McCallum was not able to serve when he came out of hospital. I am going to ask you two questions—Whether you wish the Commission to be dissolved or go on, or if you do wish the inquiry to go on will you nominate members who are willing to serve, or leave the nomination of the members to the Government?

Mr. FRANCIS said—Gentlemen: To some extent I am responsible for the present meeting and for placing you in your present position, and I have asked the chairman for permission to explain it. After the Committee was appointed, Mr. Wodehouse was very active, and we had two or three preliminary meetings before the commission was actually appointed at his house at which we exchanged our views on the subject, and endeavoured to ascertain, as far as we could, what lines the examination of witnesses and the investigation generally should take. As soon as

the commission was issued we met again and prepared a lengthy series of questions to be addressed to the different interests in the colony—the wine merchants, importers of wines and spirits, the licensed dealers and the naval and military medical authorities. The answers to some of these have been received and the result of our preliminary inquiries and investigation was this, that so far as we could see there was nothing very serious the matter, there was nothing really substantial to inquire into. From Mr. McCallum and Mr. Brown we ascertained that so far as their knowledge and experience went there was nothing in the shape of adulteration practised in the colony. They had never had any proof of it, and so far as their experience went they believed adulteration was not prevalent. The very most that was done was that the liquor was weakened, and if there was anything wrong it was in connection with the liquor imported; perhaps a good deal of the liquor was too crude and not of the very best quality. The Captain Superintendent of Police was the only witness examined by the Commission at the sittings it held. Mr. May had nothing to complain of either as to the conduct of the keepers of public-houses generally, or the quality or quantities of the liquors sold, and in fact said there was no reason to complain of drunkenness in the colony. They got answers from the naval and military medical officers and they had no serious complaint against the quality of the liquors supplied to the men. They had nothing to suggest, and broadly, we came to the conclusion that there was little or nothing substantial to inquire into. One point with reference to which amendment was possible could only be tackled by interfering with the trade of the port, and imposing restriction on the import of liquors of different descriptions, and imposing tests and calling for examinations and reports from the importers of liquors, which would seriously interfere with the free trade of the port, and which would be most strenuously resisted. Therefore, when Mr. Wodehouse had to go away—the meetings of the Commission were delayed in consequence of his illness,—when Dr. Hartigan was leaving the colony for twelve months, when Mr. McCallum was taken ill and had to leave, so that it was absolutely necessary to re-constitute the Commission, I mentioned the matter to Mr. Cobbold, who was practically the only other member of the Commission besides myself, and we agreed that there was very little to inquire about, and very little use to continue the Commission, and, therefore, I informally addressed the Government on the matter. The result of that communication was that Mr. Wodehouse was asked to hold a meeting of the then members of the Committee to ascertain their views. I attended one meeting, and we were unable to get a quorum. Mr. Wodehouse called another meeting on the morning before he went away, but it was impossible to get a quorum, and this meeting was called. I, therefore, beg to move that the Commission be allowed to lapse.

The Rev. R. F. COBBOLD—Gentlemen, it may be a matter of surprise to some of you, as it was to myself, when I received notice of this meeting, to learn that until five minutes ago I had no idea whatever as to what the business was. Mr. Francis will pardon me if I express my entire disapproval of what he has said. It is true that some time before Mr. Wodehouse left I had a conversation with him, but I think he must have absolutely misunderstood what I said. Mr. Francis has just said entirely on his own authority that the result of the inquiry as far as it has gone is that there is nothing very serious the matter. That, gentlemen, is a point on which I absolutely disagree with him. I have no intention whatever of shirking the duty which, gentlemen, at your instigation and request, has been placed upon us by the Government. We cannot possibly prejudge this question. Whatever our opinion may be at present as to the possible result at which we may arrive, I do not think we have any right whatever at the present moment to say that this Commission ought to cease to exist. (Applause.) It has been suggested that not long ago a Commission sat at home to inquire into very much the same kind of matters we have in hand, and that the result of their inquiry was practically nothing could be done. I believe it is partly upon that ground that it has

been suggested that this Commission should cease, but, gentlemen, our conditions here are not the same as those at home. I do not say we shall not arrive at the result which Mr. Francis has so clearly sketched out to us, but this is not the question before us. The Commission has been appointed with definite powers, definite scope, and it is our duty to continue it.

Mr. FRANCIS—I would ask leave to say one word in explanation. If I conveyed the idea that there was any formal expression of opinion, I failed to express myself clearly, but communicating personally with Mr. Cobbold he distinctly expressed at the time his agreement with me. I have carefully perused Mr. May's evidence, as submitted to the Committee, and I am perfectly satisfied, and anybody who reads it over will be fully satisfied, that the Captain Superintendent of Police, who has immediate control of the licensed houses, coffee shops, and other public houses here, sees nothing that requires amendment, and is satisfied with the method of conducting the public houses. Mr. Browne, the Secretary, stated emphatically to myself and Captain Hastings, when talking the matter over the other day, that in the reports of the military and naval medical officers, in answer to questions submitted to them, that they had nothing whatever to complain of. All they said was that the men got too great a quantity of liquor but as to the quality they had nothing to say.

The Rev. R. F. COBBOLD—I am sure Mr. Francis will agree with me in this point that hearsay evidence is of no practical value. I have not seen the answers to questions formulated by the Commission, neither has Mr. Francis, and we are not in a position to say that there is no use for the Commission.

Dr. STEDMAN—I beg to second Mr. Francis' motion. I was appointed to the Commission in place of Dr. Hartigan, and I have had a lot of conversations with Mr. Browne on the subject, and he tells me emphatically and distinctly that he cannot by analysis detect any deleterious principles in the cheap whiskies and gins that are sold in this colony; that the cheap whiskies and gins sold in this colony are cheap because they are not natural spirits, but manufactured spirits, and, so far as he can tell, were manufactured with more or less pure proof spirit. Certain flavours are added to them, certain small proportions of whisky or gin, as the case may be, to give them a flavour, so that these manufactured spirits contain less fusel oil and far less furfuraldehyde than other expensive liquors. Mr. Browne has told me that in all these cheap whiskies he cannot find as much fusel oil, furfuraldehyde, and one or two other things, which are supposed to be injurious in newly-distilled whisky, as was found in much more expensive whisky, and more than that these cheap whiskies have been brought to him from these low grog shops in the town, and after analysing them and failing to find anything deleterious in them he has drunk these common cheap whiskies at his own table, and not only received no injury from them, but found them very much like the ordinary whisky, except that they had not the same amount of flavour. It seems to me it is entirely a matter of analysis; we are left entirely in the analyst's hands, and if the Commission were to investigate the spirits sold in this colony and send them for analysis, and the analyst tells you beforehand that he cannot find anything deleterious in the liquor the whole thing must end in smoke.

Dr. CLARK—I would just like to say that the statement we have heard from Dr. Stedman is a most important one, one which practically settles the question. We are receiving the statement of the Government Analyst at second hand, and I would like to suggest, Sir, prior to the dissolution of this Commission—Would it not be well if the Commission took the evidence of Mr. Browne on that point, and if necessary call another meeting of the Justices to hear at first hand the evidence of the Government Analyst?

Mr. FRANCIS—In the present state there is no Commission. The question is whether the Government should re-constitute it. There are only two members of it—myself and Mr. Cobbold.

Dr. CLARK—And these two members constitute the Commission.

Mr. FRANCIS—No, a quorum consists of the Chairman and two other members.

Dr. CLARK—I will move, "That the Government be recommended to appoint the Acting Police Magistrate Chairman of this Commission, and that this meeting of the Justices beg to suggest to the Commission that they take the evidence of the Government Analyst upon the question as to whether it is possible by analysis to prove the deleteriousness or otherwise of cheap liquors sold in this colony, and report the result of that evidence to a future meeting of the Justices." Then, Sir, we should be in a position to consider the question whether it is worth while to waste valuable time taking further evidence. Until we get that, we have no evidence before us to justify the dissolution of the Commission.

Dr. LOWSON seconded.

Mr. FRANCIS withdrew his proposals in favour of Dr. Clark's resolution.

Dr. CLARK's resolution was carried unanimously.

"THE LIFE OF NELSON AND ITS LESSONS."

LECTURE BY MR. J. J. FRANCIS, Q.C.

Under the auspices of the Hongkong branch of the Navy League, on the 18th April Mr. J. J. Francis, Q. C., delivered a lecture in the Chamber of Commerce Room at the City Hall on "The life of Nelson and the lessons to be learned from it." The chair was occupied by Commander Hastings. There was a fairly large audience.

Commander HASTINGS, in the course of a few remarks from the chair, said he was glad to say a sense of duty was animating the Hongkong branch of the Navy League. They were bringing in recruits. He was glad to be able to tell them that there were 172 members and 35 associates, making 207. (Applause.)

Mr. FRANCIS, at the outset, said his sketch was taken almost entirely from the recent publication by Captain Mahon, of the United States Navy, and in the preface to that life, which he believed would remain for many years, if not for ever, the standard life of Nelson, Captain Mahon pointed out that the preparation for that life and the studies necessary for its completion were simply the complement of Nelson's previous studies of the influence of sea power in the history of the world. The Captain described Nelson as the one man who in himself summed up and embodied the greatness and the possibilities which sea power comprehended, the man for whom genius and opportunity worked together to make him the personification of the naval power of Great Britain. The Captain spoke of Nelson as concretizing in himself that period in the history of the world in which the naval power of Great Britain reached its culminating point. Nelson, born on the 29th September, 1758, was killed in the Battle of Trafalgar on the 21st of October, 1805. He was 47 years old when he died, and practically the history of his public life, of those great exploits which had gained for him such a conspicuous place in history, were summed up in the last 12 years of that life—from 1793 to 1805. There was one point in connection with Nelson's career to which Mahon called particular attention. Throughout his life Mahon considered him and placed him side by side with Napoleon. They constantly associated the names of Napoleon and Wellington as the two great antagonists of the period commencing practically in 1793 and terminating in 1815. Mahon pointed out and emphasised that the great antagonist of Napoleon, the man by whom the most serious blows were struck against Napoleon and the power of France, the man who at the principal points of his career confronted and opposed Napoleon, was not Wellington but Nelson. The lecturer enumerated many of these points, from Napoleon's first great campaign, when on his appearance off Toulon Nelson was in the British fleet which was then in the occupation of the harbour of Toulon, to the reply from England to the Battle of Austerlitz by the Battle of Trafalgar, which annihilated at once and for all the combined French and Spanish navies. The lecturer added that if Wellington was able to succeed—

ing years to successfully oppose the French troops in Portugal and in Spain and ultimately to invade the South of France, if he stood conqueror in the end on the field of Waterloo, it was because the victories of Nelson had constituted England the mistress of the seas. Without that supremacy at sea it was absolutely certain that our armies would never have made their appearance in the Idumean Peninsula, or if they had made their appearance there could never have been supplied with provisions or munitions, and would never have been able to maintain themselves in that position. The lecturer proceeded to deal in a most graphic and interesting manner with the principal events in the life of the great naval hero, and in conclusion strongly urged all who took any interest in naval matters and were interested in the Navy League to lay all other lives of Nelson aside and to study, as he had done, the life of Nelson by Captain Mahon. (Applause.)

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Francis, on the motion of Mr. F. Henderson, seconded by Mr. Hamilton Sharp.

HONGKONG ODD VOLUMES SOCIETY.

CLOSING MEETING.

The members of the Hongkong Odd Volumes Society brought a successful season to a close by holding a meeting in St. Andrew's Hall at the City Hall on Wednesday evening at which experiments in electrical discharge and exhibitions of the graphophone and phonograph and microscope were provided. Mr. H. E. Pollock, Hon. Secretary of the Society, presided, and there was a large attendance. His Excellency Major-General Wilson Black and Mrs. Black honoured the gathering with their presence.

The CHAIRMAN introduced the proceedings by remarking that they would commence with a lecture by Mr. Frank Browne on electrical discharge, and by special request Mr. Browne would deal more particularly with that branch of electrical discharge which concerned X rays. He felt sure that Mr. Browne's remarks would be followed with very great interest by all present. (Applause.)

Mr. BROWNE then gave his lecture, which was illustrated by experiments, members of the audience being allowed to examine their hands under the X rays.

Dr. ATKINSON gave an exhibition of microscopic slides, various interesting objects being shown, including the plague bacillus.

Dr. JORDAN gave an exhibition of the graphophone and phonograph, and explained the difference between the two instruments and the principles on which they were constructed.

A very pleasant and instructive evening was spent, and votes of thanks were accorded to the lecturers. During the intervals refreshments were served in the Chamber of Commerce room.

OPENING OF THE GYMKHANA SEASON.

The first of the series of Gymkhanas arranged for the season came off on the Race Course, Happy Valley, on Saturday afternoon. The entries were fairly numerous and some capital races were witnessed. As many as ten ponies had been entered for the half-mile race for all China ponies. Only four, however, ran, and the race was somewhat tame, Mr. Cox winning easily with Tocsin. The polo pony race, for which 11 had entered and in which eight ran, was much more interesting. Mr. Johnson with Rubio had not much difficulty in winning the first heat, but in the second he was hard pressed by Mr. May on Beechcomber and Mr. des Vœux on Orinoco. The "once round" was another exciting event. There was a tough struggle between Captain McLachlan with Castanet and Mr. Master with Landsknecht. In the steeplechase there was some capital jumping. There was a fair attendance of spectators, for whom the band of the King's Own Regiment provided a pleasing selection of music. The following were the officials:—

Judges:—The Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving and Mr. V. A. Caesar Hawkins.

Handicappers:—The Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G.; Mr. M. Grote.

Starter:—Mr. A. Babington.

Timekeeper:—Mr. J. McKie.

Clerk of the Scales:—Mr. J. McKie.

Hon. Treasurer:—Mr. G. C. C. Master.
Hon. Secretary:—Capt. P. de S. Burney, R.A.

The details of the different events are given below:—

HALF-MILE RACE; for all China ponies; weight as per scale with 7 lbs. added. Non-Winners at the Hongkong Race meeting, 1898, allowed 7 lbs.; unplaced ponies allowed 10 lbs.; allowances not accumulative. 1st prize, \$40; 2nd prize, \$15; Entrance, \$3.

Mr. G. H. Potts' Tocsin, 11st 11bs (Mr. Cox) 1
Mr. Gray's Gamecock, 10st 12lbs (Mr. Master) 2

Capt. McLachlan's Slander, 10st 9lbs (Mr. McLachlan) 3

Mr. Medico's Tantivy, 10st 12lbs (Mr. Gresson) 0

Mr. Cox led the whole way and won easily.

POLO PONY RACE; for all bona fide pool ponies, to be declared as such by the Polo Committee; 1 mile heats without dismounting; catch weights over 11st. 7 lbs. To be ridden by playing members of the Hongkong Polo Club. Will be decided in three heats; the first ponies of the first and second heats to run in third heat, unless the same pony wins both first and second heats, when there will be no third heat; 1st Prize, Cup, presented by G. C. C. Master, Esq.; 2nd Prize, \$15. Entrance \$3.

Mr. Johnson's Rubio, 11st 7lb (Mr. Johnson) 1

The Hon. F. H. May's Beechcomber, 11st 7lbs (Mr. May) 2

Capt. Loveband's Orinoco, 11st 7lbs (Mr. Des Vœux) 0

Capt. Burney's Sport, 11st 7lbs (Capt Burney) 0

Capt. Burney's Buckingham, 11st 7lbs (Mr. Gresson) 0

Mr. Bruce's Viceroy, 11st 7lbs (Mr. Bruce) 0

Major Koe's Whirlwind, 11st (Capt. McLachlan) 0

Mr. Landale's Parole, 11st (Mr. Landale) 0

In this event which was a most interesting one, Rubio won both times. In the first heat Beechcomber was second and tied for second place with Orinoco in the second. In the second heat Rubio narrowly escaped being caught on the post.

ONCE ROUND; for all China ponies; weight as per scale with 10 lbs. added. Subscription ponies of this season non-winners allowed 10 lbs.; winners allowed 7 lbs. Unplaced ponies other than subscription griffins of this season allowed 7 lbs. 1st prize, \$50; 2nd prize, \$20. Entrance, \$3.

Capt. McLachlan's Castanet, 11st 7lbs (Mr. McLachlan) 1

Mr. Gray's Landsknecht 11st 1lb (Mr. Master) 2

Mr. Medico's Tantivy, 11st 4lbs (Mr. Gresson) 3

Mr. Kingston's Bannerman, 12st 0lb (Mr. Brutton) 0

Mr. McClure's Pegasus, 10st 9lbs (Mr. Cox) 0

This was a capital race, particularly between the first and second, the former winning by a bare half length.

THREE QUARTER MILE RACE; for subscription griffins of any season; weight as per scale with 10 lbs. added. Unplaced ponies allowed 10 lbs.; placed ponies not winners allowed 5 lbs.; allowances not accumulative; 1st prize, \$50; 2nd prize, \$20. Entrance \$3.

Mr. Gray's Gamecock, 11st 2lbs (Mr. Master) 1

The Hon. F. H. May's Springfield, 11st 0lbs (Mr. May) 2

Mr. Cox's Chaffinch, 10st 12lbs (Mr. Cox) 3

Mr. Nugent's Ingoldsby, 10st 6lbs (Mr. Lawford) 0

Mr. Medico's Hector, 11st 5lbs (Mr. Gresson) 0

Mr. G. H. Potts's White Heather, 11st 3lbs (Mr. Bruce) 0

Gamecock won easily. The second and third were very close together at the finish.

STEEPLECHASE; for all China ponies; over the Steeplechase Course; weight as per scale with 10 lbs. added; 1st prize cup, presented by Mr. T. Jackson; 2nd prize, \$20. Entrance \$3.

Hon. J. Bell Irving's Digby Grand, 11st 11lbs (Mr. Master) 1

Hon. T. H. Whitehead's Statesman, 12st 0lb (Mr. Burney) 2

Capt. Loveband's Orinoco, 11st 8lbs (Mr. Johnson) 3

A very keen contest between Digby Grand and Statesman, both of whom jumped splendidly. Digby Grand won with very little to spare. Buckingham came home riderless.

ONE MILE HANDICAP; for China ponies forced for ponies entered at this meeting; 1st prize, \$80; 2nd prize, \$20; entrance, \$1; if left in after 2 p.m. on Wednesday, 13th April, 1898, \$2 extra.

Mr. G. H. Potts's Tocsin, 11st 7lbs (Mr. Cox) 1

The Hon. J. Bell Irving's Pineapple, 11st 4lbs (Mr. Master) 2

Mr. Gray's Gamecock, 10st 12lbs (Mr. Gresson) 3

Won by about a length with a bad third. Time 2.12½.

THE ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

CLUB GOLD MEDAL AND CHAMPIONSHIP, 1898.

This annual competition has occupied the attention of members since the early days of the month. As already notified, four members entered for the Blue Riband of the Links, and the following is the record of the preliminary rounds:—

Dr. J. A. Lowson beat Mr. G. Stewart by 5 up and 3 to play, the winner accomplishing his first 9 holes in 39—5, 4, 4, 5, 3, 5, 4, 4, 5. In his second round he got into the ditch on his second stroke for the first hole, and gave up the hole, taking the remaining eight holes in 34.

Mr. C. W. May beat Mr. A. S. Anton by 5 up and 4 to play, the winner holing his first round in 44.

FINAL.

The play for this was arranged to be a continuous round of 36 holes, and Dr. J. A. Lowson and Mr. C. W. May started for their match at 1.30 on Wednesday last. The day was intensely hot, a cloudless sky with a blazing sun making it very trying work for the players. The best rounds in the match were Mr. May's second round in 41 and Dr. Lowson's third round in 40. The remaining rounds were not exactly displays of championship form, ranging between 44 and 47. For the first 18 holes 7 were halved and in the second 18 holes, 10. The first and second rounds of 9 holes went to Mr. May by 1 and 2 up; the third to Dr. Lowson by 3 up; all even at this point and nine to play. The next 4 holes were halved, the fifth being taken by the "medico," the sixth and seventh by his opponent, and the last two halved, leaving the match in the hands of Mr. May by 1 up.

Compared with the 1897 championship the play this year shows an improvement of at least 2 strokes per round of 9 holes, and Dr. Lowson's score in the first match was a fine exhibit, his first nine holes being negotiated in 3 under scratch, and about 3 over the "par" of the green.

The winner was the recipient of warm congratulations on the completion of the match. The result has been achieved by assiduous, steady, and earnest play, and the advice which we gave to last year's winner, but which it is much to be regretted has not been followed, we do not think requires to be repeated this year. The gold medal has fallen into good hands on this occasion and there it may be safely left.

A fair number of ladies graced the Club's "at home" between 3 and 6 p.m., the great heat of the day no doubt deterring some who last year appeared on the links from honouring the members by their presence. To those who braved the sun's rays we wish to express our thanks for their kindly presence and interest shown in the day's proceedings.

The new French flagships *Vauban*, with Admiral de Beaumont on board, passed through Singapore en route to Saigon on the 10th April. The *Vauban*, is 267ft. 9in. in length, 57 ft. 3in. beam, and has a draught of 27feet, her displacement being 6,150 tons. Her engines are of 4,560 horse power and her speed 14 knots. Her armour is 9.84in. thick, and her armament consists of four 24 c.m. guns, one 19 c.m., six 14 c.m., and twelve machine guns. She has two torpedo tubes. Her crew numbers 440 and she is commanded by Captain Boutet.

STRAITS INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

THE CHAIRMAN EXPLAINS THE LOSSES.

On the 12th April the twenty-first ordinary general meeting was held at the offices of the Straits Insurance Company, Singapore.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bogaardt) said:—The fourteenth annual report and balance sheet of the Company is before you, and, if there is no objection, it will be taken as read. We regret to have to place in your hands so unfavourable a report, but our experience has not been different from that of the majority of Marine Insurance Companies during the three years 1895, 1896, and 1897. The reports of the British as well as the Foreign and Colonial Companies which have been published this year state, without exception, that these years have been most unfavourable for underwriters generally, and that the situation calls for united action to demand increased rates so as to put the business on a sound basis. Of the 13 leading British offices, 10 reported a loss on the account for 1895, and, of these, 7 again report a loss on 1896, the losses for the two years aggregating £230,000. The character and extent of our operations in London have not for some time past been in accordance with the wishes and instructions of the Directors, but our liabilities for the year 1897, as the accounts before you shew, amount to less than half of the liability at the close of the year 1896. This cutting down of income has been voluntary, and is accounted for by the refusal to renew hull time risks in London, a business which had proved to be unprofitable. Elsewhere than in London, our business has been progressive and sound, and at the beginning of this year a new underwriter was appointed in London who is writing for us on restricted lines an account which will carry less than one-third of the liability incurred for the year 1895 and 1896. The reduction in premium is the result of the refusal of business under peremptory instructions from the Board, and is not due in any way to any falling off in the amount of business offered to the Company. It was impossible to reduce expenses of management at the same time as the income was reduced, but from the beginning of the current year substantial reductions have been made in all items of expenditure. The amounts appropriated for outstanding claims in 1895 and 1896, although largely in excess of amounts ever previously appropriated, proved insufficient, and we are now paying claims on the accounts for these years which will bring the loss on our underwriting in London to an amount not less than £40,000. We have met this loss, and have liquidated the London time account, and the doing so has taxed our resources to the utmost, as the accounts shew, but our present liabilities are less even than the reduced income indicates, for a large proportion of the 1897 account is for voyage risks the liability on which has already run off. Tariffs at increased rates have been agreed to by all Companies operating in New Zealand, Australia, and India, and negotiations are now proceeding in London with a view to raise rates on marine insurance risks generally. We hope to benefit from these tariffs, and as we have had three bad years in succession we may reasonably expect to share in the benefits to be derived from the increased rates which have recently come into force. So far as the 1897 and current year's accounts have run our losses have been less in proportion to premiums than at same date last year, and our liability on time risks is less than one-fourth of the amount at same date last year. Our investments, we believe, represent sound value for the amounts in the balance sheet.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Derrick, the report and accounts were adopted.

The Iloilo Herald reports the arrival at that port of a tugboat purchased at Singapore for the Iloilo harbour works. Stormy weather was encountered and the voyage occupied twenty-seven days, of which seven were spent waiting at Labuan for the weather to clear and two at Balabac. When nearing Iloilo she had to borrow a couple of tons of coal from a Spanish gunboat to help her on to her destination. All the stores she had left was the proverbial "half bottle of whisky."

THE NORTH CHINA INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the sixth ordinary general meeting of shareholders to be held at the offices of the Company, Shanghai, on 28th April:—

The Directors have pleasure in submitting the annexed duly audited statement of the Company's accounts to the 31st December, 1897.

1896 and previous years.—After payment of the dividend declared at the last ordinary general meeting, and claims and charges to 31st December last, there remained at credit of liability account Tls. 7,120.51, and it is hoped this amount, with salvages still to be received, may prove sufficient to meet all further claims upon 1896 and previous years.

1897.—The net premium is Tls. 169,038.08 less than that of the preceding year. This decrease is entirely due to the voluntary restriction of the Company's underwriting, and the comparatively better working results may therefore be considered satisfactory.

The working account to 31st December shows a balance of Tls. 411,132.13. Claims amounting to Tls. 96,905.52 have since been paid, and it is proposed to retain Tls. 162,226.61 to provide for outstanding losses and unexpired risks, leaving an estimated profit of Tls. 152,000, which the directors now recommend for appropriation as follows:—

A dividend of 10 per cent. on the paid-up capital,

And a bonus of 10 per cent. upon contributory premiums, both payable at the exchange of 2s. 6d. per Tael.

Directors.—Mr. Davis resigned his seat at the board during the past year owing to pressure of business. The remaining directors now all retire in accordance with the regulations of the company, but, being eligible, they offer themselves for re-election.

Auditors.—The auditors, Messrs. White and Wrightson also retire, but are willing to resume if re-elected.

By order of the court of directors,

ALEXR. ROSS,
Secretary.

Shanghai, 13th April, 1898.

BALANCE SHEET, 31ST DECEMBER, 1897.

Dr.	Taels.
To capital account:—5,000 shares at £25 = £125,000 0.0 at 2s. 8d.	937,500.00
To reserve fund	250,000.00
To working account, 1896:—	
Balance on 31st Dec., 1896 376,515.51	
Deduct—1st dividend, being 10 per cent. per annum on paid-up capital, declared 28th April, 1897 90,909.09	
	Tls. 285,606.42
Amount brought forward from below	307,523.45
Dr. ... Tls. 21,614.03	
Amount transferred to liability account	21,614.03
To working account, 1897:—Amount brought forward from below	411,132.13
To liability account for 1895 and previous years	28,734.54
Less—Amount transferred from 1896 account as above	21,614.03
	Tls. 7,120.51
Liability account for 1896 and previous years	7,120.51
To dividends uncollected	345.46
	Taels 1,606,038.10

Cr.	Taels.
By cash on current and deposit accounts in Shanghai	92,965.24
By Chinese Imperial Government loan of 1886 (E issue)	38,500.00
By Shanghai municipal loan of 1883	11,100.00
By Shanghai municipal loan of 1890	15,000.00
By Shanghai municipal loan of 1891	8,000.00
By Shanghai municipal loan of 1894	15,000.00
By Shanghai municipal loan of 1895	18,500.00
By Shanghai municipal loan of 1896	19,000.00
By Shanghai municipal loan of 1897	6,500.00
By Shanghai Land Investment Co.'s 6 per cent. debentures	55,000.00

By Shanghai Waterworks Co.'s 5 per cent. debentures	9,600.00
By mortgage on property in Shanghai	13,000.00
By land and premises—Head office, Shanghai	50,000.00
By London freehold premises	287,303.84
By London branch—Balance, viz.:—	
Cash at Bankers	8,283.13 6
Short loans on security	8,000.00 0
Indian Govt securities	21,998.2 1
Colonial Govt. bonds	20,708.7 4
Chinese 5 per cent. loan of 1896	11,844.14 7
Japanese Government 5 per cent. bonds	10,311.13 4
Great Central Railway 4 percent. pref stock 1891	3,213.17 0
North Eastern Railway Consols	1,939.10 4
Dehi Umballa Kalka Railway ordinary stock	4,322.00 0
Southern Punjab Railway stock	2,210.14 0
South Behar Railway 3½ percent. debenture stock	2,115.18 3
H. H. Nizam Railway 4 per cent. mortgage debentures	5,102.10 0
Illinois Central Railroad 4 per cent. gold bonds	5,087.11 0
Furniture accounts—London & Manchester	405.00 0
Premiums outstanding bills receivable, policy stamps and drafts, etc. in course of collection	9,291.15 10
	£114,873 8 1

Less—Due to sundries	3,149 9 1
	838,188.38
By Hongkong branch—Balance \$43,832.22	31,450.75
By Y'ham branch—Balance 23,573.61	17,680.21
By S'pore branch—Balance 23,167.15	16,912.02
By furniture at head office, Hongkong, Yokohama, and Singapore branches	2,987.71
By sundry debtors—Premiums, etc., outstanding at head office and agencies	60,209.41
Less—Due to sundries	1,399.46
	59,809.95

Taels 1,606,038.10

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1896.

Dr.	Taels.
To interest	5.26
To balance carried forward	307,223.45
	Taels 307,223.71
Cr.	Taels.
By return and re-insurance premium, 1st January to 31st December, 1897	35,410.51
By sundry charges and income tax	6,347.58
By losses and claims paid	265,510.62
	Taels 307,223.71

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1897.

Dr.	Taels.
To net premium, 1st January to 31st December, 1897	824,885.07
To interest	50,924.09
To transfer and certificate fees	96.00
To profit on London investment realized	340.36
To exchange account	29,674.02
	Taels 905,915.54
Cr.	Taels.
By agency commissions, 1st January to 31st December, 1897	14,336.71
By agency charges 1st January to 31st December, 1897	12,105.13
By general charges, 1st January to 31st December, 1897	1,852.36
By head office charges, 1st January to 31st December, 1897	33,149.25
By London charges, 1st January to 31st December, 1897	65,718.02
By Hongkong charges, 1st January to 31st December, 1897	11,135.86
By Yokohama charges, 1st January to 31st December, 1897	7,056.63
By Singapore charges, 1st January to 31st December, 1897	8,169.87
By directors' and auditors' fees	4,940.00
By income tax	1,127.22
By losses and claims paid	334,637.25
By depreciation furniture account	331.96
By repairs to head office premises	314.15
By balance carried forward	411,132.13
	Taels 905,915.54

THE YANG-TSZE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the eighth ordinary general meeting of shareholders, to be held at the offices of the Association, No. 26, The Bund, Shanghai, on Friday, 22nd April:—

The Board of Directors have now the pleasure to submit to the shareholders the annual report and audited statement of accounts and balance sheet to the 31st December, 1897.

Working Account, 1896 and former years.—This account shows a credit balance of \$187,345.15, against \$221,129.99 on the 31st December, 1896. The directors recommend the payment of a dividend to shareholders out of this account of 10 per cent. The account will then stand as follows:—
Dividend of 10% (= \$6 per share) \$ 48,000.00
Balance to be carried forward..... 139,345.15

\$187,345.15

Working Account, 1897.—The net premium earned during 1897, after deducting Return Premium, Re-insurance Premium, &c., amount to \$515,156.74, against \$426,929.36, during 1896, and the account shows a balance at credit of \$226,512.92 on the 31st December last, but as claims pending on known losses and casualties are estimated at \$163,000.00 the Directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend to shareholders out of this account at present, but propose to carry forward the balance to meet any unknown losses.

Unallotted Shares.—The 1,052 unallotted shares were issued on the 1st October, 1897, and were all applied for and taken up by shareholders. After crediting Capital Account with \$63,120 (being \$60 per share on 1,052 shares) and paying to the holders of "odd" shares their proportion of the profit on shares tendered for, there remained a sum of \$66,000 which has been placed to the credit of Reserve Fund. That fund now stands at \$516,000.

Exchange and Investment Fluctuation Account.—This account has been increased by \$8,777.57 and now amounts to \$85,561.27.

Sterling Exchange has been taken at 2s. 8d. per tael (the demand rate on 31st December, 1897), and the relative value between dollars and taels at 73.

Investments.—The value on 31st December last has been taken for all the Association's investments.

Directors.—On the departure of Mr. E. B. Skottowe for Europe, Mr. T. E. Sansom, Manager of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, was invited, and accepted the invitation, to fill the vacant seat on the Board.

In accordance with the articles of association the present Directors all retire from office, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Auditor.—The accounts have been audited by Mr. Augustus White, who offers himself for re-election.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
W. S. JACKSON,
Secretary.

Shanghai, 31st March, 1898.

WORKING ACCOUNT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1897.

Dr.	\$ c.
To net premium, less re-insurances, &c.....	515,156.74
To interest account.....	64,576.07
To transfer fees account.....	191.00
To profit realized on sales of securities and exchange.....	18,580.16
	\$598,503.97

Cr.	\$ c.
By claims paid, less re-insurances, &c.....	280,154.62
By agency commissions.....	23,963.63
By head office and general charges.....	25,789.68
By London charges.....	21,928.90
By Hongkong charges.....	4,364.51
By agency charges.....	9,043.03
By directors', auditors' and committee's fees.....	6,726.68
By balance.....	226,512.92
	\$598,503.97

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1896, AND FORMER YEARS

Dr.	\$ c.
To balance of working account 1896 from last account.....	256,431.08
To balance of working account former years from last account.....	221,129.99
	\$477,561.07

Cr.	\$ c.
By net claims, re-insurance premium, and premium returned, &c., account, 1896.....	141,681.67
By bonus to secretary and staff.....	6,28.47
By dividend—\$6 per share on 6,948 shares.....	4,688.00
By special dividend,—former years account—\$6 per share on 6,948 shares.....	41,688.00
By amount transferred to reserve fund.....	50,000.00
By net claims, and all payments account former years.....	5,876.78
By balance.....	187,345.15
	\$477,561.07

BALANCE SHEET, ON 31st DECEMBER, 1897

LIABILITIES.	\$ c.
Capital, 8,000 shares of \$100 each upon which the sum of \$60 per share has been called and paid up.....	480,000.00
Reserve fund.....	516,000.00
Exchange and investment fluctuation account.....	85,561.27
Working account, 1897.....	226,512.92
Working account, 1896 & former years.....	187,345.15
Uncollected dividends and bonus.....	3,097.44
	\$1,498,516.78

ASSETS.	\$ c.
Midland Railway Company, consolidated 4 per cent perpetual preference stock £7,436.50.....	76,404.96
Great Northern Railway Co., consolidated 4 per cent. preference stock £2,227.00.....	22,885.70
London and North Western Railway Co. consolidated 4 per cent. preference stocks £3,787.10.....	38,912.67
Great Western Railway Co. 4 per cent. debenture stock £1,937.10.....	19,958.82
Great Western Railway Co 4½ per cent. debenture stock £3,210.00.....	32,079.45
Indian 3½ per cent. stock, 931, £2,146.25.....	22,049.19
Mortgages on real estate at Shanghai.....	349,169.52
Chinese Imperial Government E Loan of 1896.....	91,917.31
Cash at Bankers on fixed deposit.....	284,246.58
Cash at Bankers on current account.....	186,177.59
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Limited 6 per cent. debentures of 1890.....	34,216.58
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Limited 6 per cent. debentures of 1894.....	34,246.57
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Limited 5 per cent. debentures of 1896.....	11,712.33
Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co. 6 per cent debentures.....	30,136.99
Shanghai Municipal 5 per cent. debentures of 1892.....	26,164.38
Shanghai Municipal 5 per cent. debentures of 1895.....	7,534.25
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Limited, 5 per cent debentures of 1896.....	30,821.92
Shanghai Cargo Co., Limited, shares.....	6,506.85
S. C. Farinham & Co., Limited, shares.....	18,382.22
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Limited, shares.....	30,093.75
Boyd & Co., Limited, shares.....	6,250.00
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited, shares.....	2,300.00
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co., Ltd., shares.....	7,808.22
North China Insurance Co., Limited, shares.....	273.47
Policy stamps at agencies.....	623.63
Head office and London furniture.....	2,969.30
Due by agencies, premium in course of collection, and sundry outstanding.....	123,870.96
	\$1,498,516.78

THE BANK OF CHINA AND JAPAN, LIMITED.

The following is the report which was to be presented to the shareholders at the third annual meeting to be held on Monday, the 28th March, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E. C.:—

The Directors beg to submit to the shareholders a statement of the affairs of the Bank as at 31st December, 1897.

Considerable progress has been made in realisation of the Assets of the Old Bank, and repayments to depositors during the year have reduced the old liabilities to a sum of £112,943 13s. 1d., being 10 per cent. of the original amount due. Sales made since 31st December, with proceeds of call due 2nd April, will enable this sum to be liquidated during May.

Decisions have not yet been given in the suits against American and Chinese recalcitrant shareholders, but these suits are being pushed on with good hopes of success in the New York Courts, and at Peking the cases against Chinese are in the hands of H.B.M.'s Minister.

The working of the New Bank shows a profit of about 3 per cent. on the Capital allotted it, after providing for all its expenses and the ordinary cost of liquidation; and this has been earned solely in exchange banking, and in face

of the considerable difficulty which an institution working with gold funds only finds when operating in countries where the currency is silver.

The directors who retire at this time are Mr. D. McLean and Mr. H. D. Stewart, who, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The Auditors, Messrs. Turquand, Youngs, Bishop and Clarke, offer themselves for re-election for the current year.

By order of the Board,

F. C. BISHOP,
Manager.

16th March, 1898.

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET. SHEWING THE POSITION OF THE LIQUIDATION ON 31st DECEMBER, 1897.

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.
To authorised capital—			
39,350 preference shares of £5 each.....	£199,750		
199,875 ordinary shares of £8 each.....	1,599,000		
1,250 deferred shares of £1 each.....	1,250		
	£1,800,000		
To subscribed capital—			
9 preference shares of £5 each.....	£45		
106,701 ordinary shares of £8 each.....	853,608		
1,105 deferred shares of £1 each.....	1,105		
	£854,758		
To paid-up capital—			
Ordinary shares.			
107,483 as per balance sheet at 31st December, 1896.....			
678 issued during the year 1897.....			
108,101			
1,400 surrendered during the year 1897.....			
106,711 of £8 each at £3 10s per share.....	£373,453 10 0		
Deduct—Instalments of call of £3 15s. per share not yet paid.....	20,778 12 11		
	352,674 17 1		
Add—Instalments of call of £3 15s. per share paid in advance.....	5,747 10 0		
	361,422 7 1		
1,105 deferred shares of £1 each fully paid.....	1,105 0 0		
	362,527 7 1		
To uncalled capital paid in advance.....	200 0 0		
To instalments of call of £3 5s per share paid up on new shares not yet allotted.....	196 2 3		
To fixed deposits and current accounts in old Bank.....	£1,387 7 10 9		
Less repayments to date.....	9,2830 4 8		
	225,887 6 1		
Add interest to date.....	4,903 19 9		
	230,791 5 10		
Of which due for repayment on 1st January, 1898, £117,847 12s. 9d.			
To other liabilities.....	1,427 10 6		
	£595,142 5 8		

ASSETS.	£	s.	d.
By investments and advances in gold.....	7,100 2 0		
By investments and advances in silver at average 1s 10½d.....	141,409 19 0		
By other securities.....	883 0 9		
By cash in bank of England at credit of J. L. Boyd and others (trustees for depositors).....	120,443 5 10		
By new working account—			
Funds in transit payable by new Bank.....	£9,101 4 4		
Balance of profit and loss account transferred.....	2,763 0 8		
	11,864 5 0		
By capital set aside for new working account, subject to the conditions contained in clause 2 of the agreement dated the 21st February, 1895, embodying the scheme of arrangement, and in the 2nd schedule to the order of the Court dated the 3rd April, 1895, sanctioning same.....	100,000 0 0		
By deficiency account, as at 31st December, 1896.....	£218,945 10 4		
Less—profit and loss old account.....	£2,740 16 7		
New account.....	2,763 0 8		
	5,503 17 3		
	213,441 3 1		

NOTE.—In respect of this deficiency the calls on the shares of the old Bank made both prior to the commencement of and in the liquidation are receivable. These amount to £744,529 1s. 10d., but it is impossible to estimate their value, the greater part of them being due from Chinese shareholders.

£595,142 5 8

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
To special charges in connection with the reconstruction and realization of assets taken over from the liquidator of the old Bank, office rent, &c.	955	0	6
To law charges	1,212	1	8
To rates and taxes	67	16	4
To deposit interest	12,092	0	9
To furniture—amount written off	100	9	1
To provision for further depreciation of silver assets, after deducting surplus on assets realised during the year	8,689	6	3
To balance credited to deficiency account	2,740	16	7
	£25,857	10	9

Cr.	£	s.	d.
By gross profits	18,180	5	7
By provision for loss on calls recovered and shares surrendered	7,677	5	2
	£25,857	10	9

NEW WORKING ACCOUNT.

BALANCE SHEET AT 31st DECEMBER, 1897.

Dr.	LIABILITIES	£	s.	d.
To working capital as per general balance sheet		100,000	0	0
To fixed deposits and current accounts		63,239	17	1
To loans payable		19,431	5	1
To other liabilities		194,394	18	1
To Creditors' Committee—				
Realised assets in transit	£9,101	4	4	
Balance of profit and loss transferred	2,763	0	8	
		11,864	5	0
		£388,930	5	3

To liability on bills receivable re-discounted, £50,058 14s. 6d. of which up to this date £48,429 18s. 0d. have run off.

Cr.	ASSETS	£	s.	d.
By cash in hand and at Bankers		95,299	4	3
By Government securities		59,962	2	1
By bills receivable and other assets in hand and in transit		233,668	18	11
		£388,930	5	3

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
To expenses of management at head office and branches, including directors', auditors' and creditors' committee remuneration	10,613	12	11
To deposit interest	1,991	13	0
To balance transferred to creditors' committee	2,763	0	8
	£15,368	6	7

Cr.	£	s.	d.
By gross profits	15,368	6	7
	£15,368	6	7

THE PUNJOM MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that he has received the following report on the operations at the Company's mines during the month ending 31st March, 1898.

300ft. Level.—Good progress has been made with this, 54ft. having been driven, making the total distance from shaft 266ft. We have had various changes, crossing leaders and carrying stone with us in driving. We had a well defined piece of stone for 16ft. in length and 2ft. wide. We left the course of this as it is bearing to the west of our Main North drive. Shall prospect on this later on after the pumps are fixed. The ground in the face of drive is very favourable. All the surface rods and balance cranks have been renewed and strengthened. This was necessary for the additional 100ft. of pumps.

East Drive No. 1.—This was continued a further distance of 6ft. 6in., making the total distance from shaft (North Drive) 13ft. 6in., the leader cutting quite out by coming in contact with very hard ground, so we discontinued this and continued North Drive.

East Drive No. 2.—We opened a drive on the leader referred to as having assayed 7 dwts. to the ton. This appears to be opening out as we extend the drive, but it has not improved in value. Distance driven 10 ft.

North Shaft.—The foot-wall of the lode was struck at 49 feet below the 200 foot Level, that is, we have had quartz the past 13 feet in sinking; we struck quartz 38 feet below the 200 foot level. The stone is, however, of low grade and will not pay for milling. We have suspended operations here for the present so as to bring the pump down to the 300 foot level and to make the necessary alterations for further sinking and pre-

paratory to fixing our large pump, as this pump will keep the mine partially dry when doing so.

Winze below 200 ft. Level.—We have not made much progress at this point, 14 feet having been sunk, making the total depth below the 200 foot Level 36 feet. When making the necessary alterations to pump this point was flooded.

The lode is now more vertical than when last reported and is now quite 6ft. wide and is extending South. This is quite a new feature; it appears to be a new, make of stone extending south and we shall test this later on. The stone carries more mineral and looks more promising.

150 ft. Level.—The leader here is still about one foot wide and gives a little stone for milling; we milled about 30 tons from this point during the month. In stoping up this will connect with our 110 ft. level.

Prospecting.—We have found a leader in old Chinese workings about 1,300 feet to the west of August Shaft; it is about one foot wide and gold can be seen in the stone. There is very little of it remaining, the Chinese having taken most of it away to water level. We have commenced a shaft to test its value, but I am afraid that we shall not be able to go very deep for water, but if its prospects warrant it we will fix pump and so extend our operations west. It is on the line of our East and West lode.

The total drive for the month was 157 ft. Milling was carried on for 29 days crushing 30 tons from the mine and 2,370 tons of headings for a yield of 256 ozs. of smelted gold.

Berdans treated 33 tons of old concentrates for a yield of 18 ozs. of gold.

The Cyanide Plant worked 27 days treating 376 tons of tailings for a yield of 200 ozs. of bullion valued at 15s. 9d. per oz.

Buildings.—The coolie lines are completed and are now occupied by our men.

General.—Things coming under this head are having our best attention.

Labour is plentiful, and the health of the camp is good.

Rainfall, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.

THE NEW BALMORAL GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

The General Managers, Messrs. John D. Humphreys and Son, have received the following report from their mining manager by steamer *Chingtu* :—

Mount Macdonald,
25th March, 1898.

I have the honour to report work done on the above Company's Mine during the past fortnight as follows:—

Queen Mine.—Main shaft crosscut at 350 feet level; extended total 36 feet; drill hole put in beyond this 10 feet. There being no indications of a change, it was decided to stop driving and resume the sinking of shaft as per report of the 28th February. Sinking was resumed on the 18th inst. and fair progress is being made.

Balmoral Mine.—Several parties of local men have been and some are still surface prospecting, but so far without success. Contractors for re-erection of battery making fair progress and doing good work, but the job is much heavier than they anticipated, consequently they are likely to be behind contract time.

OLIVERS FREEHOLD MINES, LIMITED.

The General Managers, Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son, have received the following report from their mining manager by steamer *Chingtu* :—

Mount Macdonald,
25th March, 1898.

I have the honour to report as follows:—

Eureka Mine.—During the past fortnight a chamber has been cut on the east side of shaft. chamber sets put in, and the connection between these and the timber already in shaft will be completed to-morrow. This will complete the timbering down to the 300 foot level. Driving north and south at the 300 ft. will be resumed on the 28th. As previously reported, the reef is from 7 to 8 feet wide and we hope to meet with good stone in the drives. 200 foot level, north drive extended a total of 166 feet; reef in end 4 feet wide, but opening out especially in the

bottom. South drive total 100 feet, reef 5 feet; ore in both of average grade; reef in stopes above this level from 5 to 7 feet wide and looking better than of late. 150 level north drive driven a total of 143 feet; reef 2 feet wide but increasing in bottom of drive; drive south extended to 57 feet; reef 5 feet wide, showing fair gold.

Reef in stopes above this level averages 3 feet in width; ore of average grade. The work of filling in the stopes is proceeding as required; winze to connect the 200 and 300 foot levels sunk; total 30 feet; reef 7 feet wide of fair grade.

Eureka B Shaft.—Several private offers to sink this shaft on contract have been received but the prices are too high; will resume sinking by day labour.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

SWATOW AND THE PLAGUE.

Sir,—In your report of the meeting of the Sanitary Board held on Thursday, 14th instant, I see it is stated that "The President thought some of the cases (i.e., of plague) might have come overland from Swatow to Kowloon. It was only 80 miles." This statement is misleading. A glance at the map will show that the distance from Swatow to Kowloon overland is double 80 miles, and it is moreover an arduous land journey.

I have the authority of our local medical men for stating that plague is not epidemic in Swatow.—Your obedient servant,

J. D. MONRO.

Swatow, 16th April, 1898.

THE PLAGUE AND THE SANITARY BOARD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR.—Recent discussions at the Sanitary Board meetings appear to me to reveal its inability to grapple in a consistent manner with the difficulties attendant on a serious visitation of the plague such as threatens the colony at the present moment, and the object of this communication is to endeavour to arouse public interest in the matter with a view to steps being taken to avoid a repetition of the blunders made in 1896.

There is in the official mind a tendency to treat this matter as one of an ordinary character, to apply to it the customary official methods, to attach undue importance to statistics and returns, and to ignore assistance or advice from any but official sources.

The outbreak is too serious to be treated thus. The welfare of the colony demands that we should rid ourselves of this curse, and do so, too, in such a manner that the cure will not be worse than the disease. The tearing down and burning of the contents of infected houses, the forcible removal and segregation of "suspects," the proposed cremation of bodies found in the street, and above all the prevention of sick persons from leaving the colony,—these are not the ways that occur to the business mind as being the most prudent and the most effectual. Surely in dealing with ignorant people such as form the bulk of our population the right course would be attract them to our side, encourage rather than drive, humour rather than frighten.

Official methods have been tried and found wanting; they have succeeded in frightening the people; they have failed to prevent or eradicate the plague. Let us try other means.

Treat with the natives through channels of communication they understand, teach them by proclamation rather than policemen, obtain the advice and assistance of intelligent Chinamen whose interests are wrapped up in the welfare of the colony, who understand the common people and the effectual way of dealing with them. If they want hospitals with Chinese doctors let them have them. If they wish to leave the colony encourage them to go. If plague occurs in a house fumigate but don't destroy, and cease driving them like animals to the segregation depot.

By all means have house cleansing, but let it be constant throughout the year. Let the

people understand that it will only be done for them when they will not do it themselves. Give them ample notice, consider their interests and prejudices to a reasonable extent, and let the officials entrusted with the work be men of intelligence, men well paid, men superior to bribery, and men who can be trusted to "do as they would be done by."

I venture to think the foregoing will be found the only practical and reasonable way of dealing with the plague, and that in course of time we should have a very different tale to tell to that of the panic, fright, and disturbance that a visitation of it brings to-day.

Our interests are threatened by this dread disease, and if for no higher than a personal motive we must insist upon the Government giving an unofficial majority to the Sanitary Board, invest it with fuller powers, and afford it ample means to enforce and carry out those powers.

I offer the following suggestions as being of a practical nature:—

- (1) Cease the house to house visitation in search of sufferers.
- (2) Provide free Chinese medical attendance to the poor at convenient places throughout the town.
- (3) Provide free launches to remove infected persons.
- (4) Provide free temporary hospitals with Chinese medical attendance but under European supervision.
- (5) Compensate the poor for destruction of their property.
- (6) Proclaim this by means of posters scattered broadcast throughout the city and let the Chinese doctors understand that cases of plague must be reported, and let the people know that they may remove their sick without hindrance.

The answer to these suggestions may be that people will not report their sick, and that they will continue to dump their dead into the street or leave them in empty houses.

Now a person attacked by plague must, so far as this colony is concerned, either die, be removed, or recover. If he dies, his death will either be reported or the corpse disposed of. If reported, well and good. If disposed of, give the people of the street in which the body is found a house to house visitation by the police every day for a week or so, and they will take very good care that corpses are not left lying about a second time. If the patient be surreptitiously removed he will be discovered at the point of embarkation.

If a patient be secretly treated in his own house and recover, we could afford to run the risk, as the number of such cases must be very few indeed.

As to infected premises, let them be visited by an intelligent officer, one who can be trusted to discriminate, and let him decide whether the contents should be burnt or whether fumigation alone will suffice.

This is a rough outline of the measures which I believe would in course of time succeed in winning the co-operation of the people and enable us to combat the plague. Though crude and erroneous in part, they are, I believe, right in the main, and in time would, if consistently, persistently, and effectually carried out, enable us to solve this very difficult problem.

In conclusion I beg to quote the following from the Governor of Bombay's speech as reported in the *Bombay Gazette* of 19th March last:—

"I know very well that in Bombay the measures that have been taken have been very distasteful to a very large number of the population. Also everyone connected with the Government will admit that it is their duty to remove obnoxious measures if measures less obnoxious and not less efficient can be found to take their place. But the problem, gentlemen, is, what are those measures to be? The only answer I can give to the question is that we must make one more determined effort to get the mass of people on our side. It has been ascertained that the house to house search has not produced the effect and the results it was hoped would accrue and therefore to replace general searching I am prepared to substitute as an experiment an undertaking from the various communities, that they will give notice of suspicious cases of illness. For I believe

that by this means, we shall obtain as accurate information of plague cases as before. There will be no corpse inspection, there will be no measure that will entail delay in the performance of funeral rites, but our main object is to ascertain where a death has occurred, and on reliable information being received, that the death must have been due to some other cause than plague that house will be left undisturbed.

I am especially anxious that all complaints, that all grievances, should be thoroughly ventilated and examined. So I propose, that one person from each of these communities (i.e. Hindu, Parsee, &c.) together with a British officer shall attend for the purpose of hearing and ventilating those complaints. There is only one way in which we can hope to vanquish the plague. Before we can hope to do that the first thing we must do is (to use an English expression) to keep our heads. We can only do so by maintaining an attitude of the greatest patience and forbearance and courage and above all a mutual confidence in one another."

I also quote from the new Bombay Plague Rules:—

- (1) No patient is to be removed to a plague hospital unless the case is undoubtedly a plague case and no medical certificate shall be accepted as evidence that the case is one of plague unless it is signed by a fully qualified medical officer.
- (3)—That no plague cases which a fully qualified medical officer may pronounce to be hopeless shall be removed to hospital without the consent of the relatives.
- (4)—That no inmates of a house are to be removed without intimation being given to the head of the family.
- (5)—That when any damage is caused by destruction of property (to diminish risk of infection) compensation must in the case of the poor be paid on the spot and there should be no destruction of property when fumigation will suffice.

This, then, is what the Bombay people have come to, after their terrible experiences, and after trying methods of prevention similar to our own. What is good enough for Bombay, will, I think, be found equally suitable for Hongkong.—Yours truly,

EDWARD OSBORNE.

Hongkong, 20th April, 1898.

P.S.—Since writing the above I see that Mr. May's proposal for a Chinese hospital where patients can be treated by native doctors has been carried in spite of the opposition of Dr. Atkinson and Dr. Clark, and the community is to be congratulated on at least one step having been taken in the right direction.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

Tong So, a notorious robber in Fa-un district, and one of the followers of Chang Wan, who gave much trouble in Fa-un district and was last year fatally shot by the soldiers, was decapitated together with six other robbers a few days ago. The heads were sent to Pan-po, where the robbers had committed many crimes and were hung on bamboos for public exhibition.

A fire broke out on the 14th instant in Luk-pohu, about sixty li from Shihing district. There are about eight hundred shops and a good number of family houses in the town. The fire originated in a family house, and twenty-four houses were burnt to the ground, but no loss of life was reported. Most of the houses were of wood.

The San'z of Lukposhi in Pun-u district, where there are about two hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants, have issued notices in all the villages strictly prohibiting the import and sale of kerosine oil under heavy penalty, on the ground that many accidents have been caused lately by the use of kerosine oil lamps.

Liu Yung-fu, the Black Flag General, who was sent by the Viceroy to enlist the old soldiers of the Black Flags, will arrive at Canton in a few days. He has enrolled altogether three thousand of his old followers. He sent back his baggage to Canton on the 14th inst.

On the 18th instant a steam-launch running between Canton and Kiangmun was attacked by a number of pirates who came up in a long boat. As the steam-launch made no resistance, the

pirates boarded her without any difficulty. They then robbed the passengers, taking away all the valuables on board. Not long afterwards a junk came in sight and the pirates forced the coxswain of the launch to steam to her. The master of the junk, observing this, at once ran his vessel ashore and landed all the passengers. When the steam-launch came up, the pirates beat the master for letting the passengers get away. They then let the steam launch go and sailed away in the junk. Up to date no trace of the junk has been discovered.

Several days ago an old woman went with her two sons to buy rice at one of the stations where rice is being sold at reduced rates. The woman told her elder son of ten years old to take care of her younger son, about a year old, and to wait for her at the entrance to the station, whilst she pressed into the crowd to buy rice. A kidnapper seeing the woman go away gave ten cash to the elder son to buy some cakes for the younger son, saying he was a friend of the old woman and so induced the elder son to let him take charge of the child. When the woman came out from the station, the elder son told her the story and she cried bitterly. When the case came to the knowledge of the weiyuen in charge of the station, he told the woman not to make any noise and promised to discover the son for her. The weiyuen then called all the go-betweens into his presence and told them that a mandarin had asked him to buy a son for him and said he could pay five hundred dollars for a small boy. The go-betweens then brought to him about twenty small children, one of which was the kidnapped child. The go-between and a man who brought the child were at once sent to the Nam-hoi Magistrate for trial, and the child was restored to the old woman.

HONGKONG.

That the Sanitary Board fully recognise the responsibility resting upon them will have been abundantly evident to anyone perusing our columns during the past week. No stone is being left unturned with a view to checking the bubonic plague with which we have been afflicted during the last few months. The Board have had two meetings this week. A rather important decision was come to at a meeting held on Tuesday, namely, that a hospital should be provided at which Chinese plague patients should be able to be treated by their own doctors and according to their own methods, and at a meeting on Thursday it was reported that arrangements had been made with the Tung Wah Hospital Committee for carrying this into effect. Saturday last saw the opening of the Gymkhana season, and Wednesday evening saw the closing of the season in connection with the Odd Volumes Society, a meeting taking place in St. Andrew's Hall at the City Hall at which electrical and other exhibitions of a similarly interesting character were held. On Saturday at noon a meeting of Justices was held re the deleterious liquor question. It was agreed before the commission appointed to investigate is dissolved the evidence of the Acting Government Analyst, Mr. F. Browne, shall be taken. Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., under the auspices of the Navy League, delivered a lecture in the Chamber of Commerce Room at the City Hall on Monday on "The life of Nelson and the lessons to be learned from it."

The stamp revenue for the first quarter of the present year amounted to \$113,825, being an increase of \$48,764 on the amount collected in the corresponding quarter of last year. \$36,799 of the increase occurs under the head of probate.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Dr. J. H. Swan has been appointed Deputy Health Officer of the Port for so long as he continues in partnership with Dr. Jordan or until further notice. It is also notified that Staff Surgeon W. E. Home, R.N., and Surgeon R. T. Gilmour, R.N., have been appointed to be temporary Deputy Health Officers.

The following official telegram has been received by the Government from Rangoon:—"Rangoon, 13th April, 1898. Colonial Secretary, Hongkong. Hongkong, Macao, and Canton declared infected ports under quarantine regulations framed under Venice Convention for Burma ports request that shipping firms may be informed accordingly. Letter follows.—SECRETARY."

For neglecting to report a case of plague at 17, Abbey street, Leung Chung, a washerman, was on Thursday fined \$10. P.C. 345 saw defendant bring a sick man in a ricksha to the Market Wharf and help him on board the Canton boat. Suspecting that it was a case of plague he interfered and the sick man was sent to the Hospital. In the meantime Dr. Lowson had certified that it was a case of bubonic plague.

The following returns of the average amount of Bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong during the month ended 31st March, 1898, as certified by the managers of the respective Banks, are published:—

Banks.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China,	\$2,995,966	\$2,000,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation,	\$6,609,031	\$3,000,000
National Bank of China, Limited,	\$ 450,000	\$ 205,000
Total.....	\$10,054,997	\$5,205,000

A seven-pounder competition in connection with the Field Battery of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps took place at Repulse Bay on Saturday. The battery occupied an eminence, the enemy to be repulsed being represented as having landed on the opposite shore. Four targets placed in column represented the enemy coming down the hillside, and making for the position occupied by the battery, and targets placed in line on the beach represented the enemy in open order. The competition was by sections, twelve minutes being allowed to fire four rounds of common shell and ten rounds of shrapnel. After firing for six minutes on the enemy advancing in column, the sectional commander ordered the fire to be commenced on the targets on the beach, the idea being that much havoc had been done to the enemy coming downhill, and they had extended into line. The ranges were about 1,300 yards for the targets in column and about 1,150 yards for those on the beach. The best shooting was done by No. 1 and 2 detachments.

At the Magistracy on Saturday morning Commander Hastings had before him two cases of neglecting to report the existence of bubonic plague. In the one case P.C. 113 said that at four o'clock on the previous Thursday afternoon he saw defendants Chun Tim and Wong Tung taking a sick man on board a vessel in the harbour. He stopped them and asked them where they came from, and they replied "28, Albany Street." He took them to the Police Station and the sick man, who had since died, was sent to the Hospital. Dr. Lowson certified that the man was suffering from bubonic plague. Defendants, in reply to the Magistrate, said they were going to worship the tombs and the man said he would go with them. They were each fined \$10, or a month. In the other case a widow, Kwok Ho, was the offender. P.C. 231 said that on the previous Thursday afternoon he was on duty in Praya West when he saw defendant following a chain along the Praya. On stopping the chair and looking in he saw a girl apparently sick. In reply to him defendant said she had brought the girl from 124, Wellington Street, and was taking her on board a boat. The girl was sent to the Hospital and Dr. Lowson certified that she died from bubonic plague. Defendant said she was taking the girl to the Praya to worship. Fined \$10, or a month.

MISCELLANEOUS.

It is proposed to move the Shanghai quarantine station to 'Bush Island', so that incoming steamers may be inspected before they actually enter the Whangpoo river.

Mr. and Mrs. Alford entertained some four hundred guests at the Astor Hall, Shanghai, to an amateur theatrical entertainment on the 14th April. In a notice of the entertainment the *N. C. Daily News* says 'the traditional hospitality of the 'Great House' took a very delightful form.'

The *N. C. Daily News* of the 16th April says:—It seems that the plague scare in connection with the alleged cases on board the *Glenturret* has been greatly exaggerated. There has

actually been one death on board, and it appears that that was a somewhat doubtful case, and the other cases which were said to have occurred turn out to be those of six men whom the doctor "did not like the look of," but there have been no other cases. There were no passengers taken on board at Hongkong and no Hongkong cargo, the man who died being one of the crew. He joined the ship on the 1st inst. complained of being ill on the 7th, and died on the 9th while the ship was ashore on the Bar. The ship was thoroughly disinfected on the 13th, and the Chinese quarters closed up for 12 hours, with burning sulphur inside, and everything that passes between the ship and Shanghai is thoroughly fumigated, every precaution being taken to prevent any further outbreak.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 18th April.—(From Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Circular).—Our last circular was under date of 2nd April; owing to the Easter holidays and absence of news we did not issue one last week. During the interval the London market has been quiet, and Blue Elephant are still quoted at 10.9. The Lyons quotations for Gold Kiling is Fes. 27.2. Raw Silk.—This market still remains very quiet. A small parcel Mountain 1 and 5 was sold, at prices below, to bear the market for the opening of the New Season. In Yellow Silk some 250 bales have been settled, the market closes quiet, but firm. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, 2nd April to 15th April are, 114 bales White, 112 bales Yellow, and 295 bales Wild Silk. Ravel and Filatures. About 100 bales Hand Filatures have been done on the basis of the quotation given below. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is, 5,570 bales to America, 3,641 bales to the Continent, 58 bales to Japan and 24 bales to London. Wild Silk.—Some 250 bales have been sold in the interval and after showing signs of weakness this market closes a little firmer. Pongees.—About 3,000 pieces White Pongees, 21/22" by 70 yard by 56/57 oz. 5 per cent. cone, have been contracted for at Tls. 16.80 per piece, delivery in about four months. Waste Silk.—There is little doing, some Curries I have been sold at Tls. 7.3. Prices calculated by Maerten's Tables at 11 per cent.; Exchange 2/6; Freight Tls. 7.45 per bale:

	Tls.	Stg.
Tsates.—Mountain 4	575	10 5
" 5	465	10 2
Taysam.—Green Kabing MM.	442	9 3
Yellow Silk.—Mienchow	350	7 9
" Meeyang	320	7 1
Fooyang	305	6 10
Hand Filature.—Fan Chop 1 & 2, avg. price	540	11 9
Wild Silk—		
Tussah Filature 8 Cocoons	265	5 11
Tussah Raw	172	4 0
Szechuen Tussah Raw, common	165	3 10

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	bales	bales
Shanghai	12,135	6,738
Canton	11,296	4,199
Yokohama	31,360	19,686
	54,791	30,623

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1897-98	1896-97
	bales	bales
Shanghai	47,965	51,791
Canton	21,890	23,318
Yokohama	18,130	18,284
	88,533	93,496

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 22nd April.—The market continues weak and prices have further declined. Quotations for Formosa are \$14.75 to \$15.00. Sales, 180 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 22nd April.—The market has been rather more active and prices have recovered a little. Quotations are:—

Shanghai, No. 1, White...	\$7.27 to 7.30 per cwt.
do. " 2, White...	7.00 to 7.04 "
Shanghai, No. 1, Brown...	4.80 to 4.83 "
do. " 2, Brown...	4.67 to 4.70 "
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.14 to 7.18 "
do. " 2, White...	6.86 to 6.90 "

Swatow, No. 1, Brown...	\$4.71 to 4.75 per cwt.
do. " 2, Brown...	4.59 to 4.62 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	11.20 to 11.22 "
Shanghai	9.94 to 9.97 "

Per steamer *Melbourne*, sailed on the 9th April. For France:—258 bales raw silk, 4 cases silk piece goods, 4 cases Chinaware, 4 cases straw hats, 1 case glassware, and 40 packages provisions. For Milan:—4 bales waste silk.

Per British ship *West York*, sailed on the 9th April. For San Francisco:—9,500 packages merchandise, 1,861 empty quicksilver flasks, 2,418 cases rice flour, 548 bales gunnies, 1,300 boxes and 2 casks nut oil, 100 packages dried ginger, 35 packages rattan chairs, and 60 bundles rattan.

Per P. & O. steamer *Sunda*, sailed on the 12th April. For Buenos Aires:—50 packages tea. For London and/or Manchester:—18 bales waste silk. For London:—39 bales feathers, and 39 pieces planks from Foochow, 1 case cigars from Manila, 795 rolls mats and matting, 2 packages rattan chairs, 25 crates flower pots, 61 bales feathers, 2 cases copper gongs, 15 cases curios, and effects, 10 cases bristles, 1 case cigars, 1 case Chinaware, 8 cases sundries, and 1,078 boxes tea. (22,543 lbs. congou).

Per steamer *Benalder*, sailed on the 13th April. For New York:—1,062 packages merchandise, 2,200 bales cassia, 500 bales broken cassia, 200 cases cassia, 72 cases cassia buds, 830 rolls matting, 1 package machinery, 108 slabs tin, 50 casks ginger, 20 cases vermilion, 12 cases personal effects, 4 cases blackwoodware, 7 cases human hair, 9 cases paper, 70 boxes joss sticks, 2 boxes tea, and 10 boxes essential oil.

Per German steamer *Gerda*, sailed on the 13th April. From Hongkong for Port Said:—2 cases blackwoodware, and 1 case sticks. For Havre:—374 rolls mats & matting, 100 boxes selected cassia, 4 cases human hair, 2 cases redwoodware, and 2 boxes feathers. For Havre option Hamburg:—83 bales canes. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or London:—2,670 bags spent char, 50 cases staranised, and 40 cases essential oil. For Hamburg:—911 bales feathers, 425 bales canes, 305 packages firecrackers, 250 cases cassia lignea, 23 bales rattanware, 100 cases cassia buds, 44 bales rattan shavings, 26 cases fans, 17 boxes Chinaware, 10 cases tea-sticks, 10 cases preserves, 10 cases anised oil, 9 packages sundries, 4 cases cigars, and 4 cases blackwoodware. For Hamburg option London:—500 boxes cassia lignea. For Rotterdam:—3 cases cigars.

Per steamer *Ixon*, sailed on the 15th April. For London:—200 bales broken cassia, 311 cases preserves, 49 cases cigars, 30 cases bristles, 14 cases blackwoodware, 1 case feathers, and 15 packages sundries. For London and/or Manchester:—265 bales waste silk. For London and/or Antwerp:—20 cases bristles. For Manchester:—1 case effects. For Liverpool:—4 packages sundries. For Antwerp:—20 cases bristles. For Rotterdam and/or Amsterdam:—100 cases ginger.

Per P. & O. steamer *Chusan*, sailed on the 16th April. For Manchester:—103 bales waste silk. For London:—303 bales waste silk, 10 rolls matting, 3 cases silk piece goods, 52 cases Chinaware, 3 cases personal effects, 1 case curios, 1 case silk and silverware, 1 case blackwoodware, 100 boxes tea (2,100 lbs. congou). For France:—296 bales raw silk, 5 cases silk piece goods, 5 cases cartoons, 2 cases curios, and 2 rolls matting. For Milan:—3 bales waste silk.

Per steamer *Gisela*, sailed on the 16th April. For Trieste:—1,051 cases & bales cassia lignea, 14 bales canes, 5 cases essential oil, 3 bales hides, 251 bales rattans, 54 packages tea, and 163 bales tobacco. For Fiume:—11 cases Chinaware, 1 roll matting, 3 packages rattan furniture, 3 packages tea, and 2 cases sundries. For Patras:—25 cases star anised. For Salonika:—20 bales hides. For Galatz:—2 cases sundries. For Beyrouth:—5 cases cassia lignea. For Bombay:—150 rolls Chinaware, 23 barrels paints, and 30 cases umbrellas.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 22nd April.—Bengal.—The market has further declined, owing to absence of demand, latest prices being \$695 for New Patna, \$720 for Old Patna, \$693½ for New Benares, and \$692½ for Old Benares.

Malwa.—There has been very little passing in this drug during the past week. Current figures are as under:—

	[nom.]
New.....	\$800 with allowance of 1 to 3 cts
Old (2/3 yrs.)	\$820 " " of 2 to 3½ "
" (1/6 ")	\$860 " " of 1 to 2½ "
" (7/8 ")	\$920 " " of 1 to 2½ "

Persian.—Very small business has been done in this drug during the period under review. Quotations continue at \$495 to \$630 for Oily, and at \$540 to \$660 for Paper-wrapped, according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna.....	619 chests
Old Patna.....	665 "
New Benares.....	570 "
Old Benares.....	336 "
Malwa.....	286 "
Persian.....	794 "

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1898.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Apr. 16	698½	720	696½	695	800	
Apr. 17	698½	720	696½	695	800	
Apr. 18	698½	720	695	695	800	
Apr. 19	698½	721½	695	695	800	
Apr. 20	697½	720	695	695	800	
Apr. 21	697½	720	695	692½	800	
Apr. 22	695	720	693½	692½	800	

RICE.

HONGKONG, 22nd April.—There is now no demand from Japan and prices are declining. Quotation are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$3.25 to 3.30
" Round, good quality.....	3.60 to 3.65
" Long.....	3.90 to 3.95
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2.....	3.55 to 3.60
" Garden, " No. 1.....	3.95 to 4.00
" White.....	4.90 to 4.95
" Fine Cargo.....	5.00 to 5.05

COALS.

HONGKONG, 22nd April.—Cardiff.—Stocks very small; Sales of Japanese 20,000 tons at \$9.00 to \$12.25 reported. Quotations are:—

Cardiff.....	\$25.00 to 40.00 ex ship, steady.
Australian.....	\$11.00 to 13.00 ex ship, steady
Miki Lump } and Small }	10.50 to 10.75.
Moji Lump.....	7.75 to 10.50 ex ship, steady
Hongay Lump.....	9.00 to —
Hongay Dust.....	4.80 to —
Briquettes.....	10.00 to —

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 22nd April.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn.—1,065 bales No. 10 at \$78 to \$93.60, 470 bales No. 12 at \$70 to \$83, 130 bales No. 16 at \$86.50 to \$96, 685 bales No. 20 at \$94.50 to \$106.50, 22 bales No. 25 at \$96.50. Japanese Yarn.—100 bales No. 16 at \$96 to \$97.50, 125 bales No. 20 at \$101 to \$102. Grey Shirtings.—500 pieces 10 lbs. Vase Chop at \$4.05, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Stag Chop at \$4.05, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Two Plates at \$3.80, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Seal, 600 pieces Blue Seal at \$3.02½, 300 pieces 8½ lbs. Double Stags at \$2.55, 700 pieces 7 lbs. Eagle at \$1.95, 1,400 pieces 7 lbs. Chair Chop at \$1.96½, 900 pieces 8½ lbs. Red 7 Chds. at \$2.65, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Fish at \$3.67½, 750 pieces 10 lbs. Blue Dragon at \$4, 1,800 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue 7 Child at \$2.65, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 7 Men at \$3.92½. White Shirtings.—500 pieces Gold Goose at \$4.47½, 500 pieces Gold Elephant at \$4, 500 pieces S. Q. at \$4.45, 500 pieces Flower Chop at \$5, 1,000 pieces D. 70 at \$3.80, 500 pieces S. S. at \$4.75, 500 pieces S. Q. at \$4.55, 500 pieces Flower Chop at \$5, 250 pieces Gold Eagle at \$3.85, 500 pieces D. 70 at \$3.82½, 250 pieces No. 600 at \$4.52½, 500 pieces Flower Chop at \$5.02½, 500 pieces S. Q. at \$4.7½, 250 pieces S. S. at \$4.77½, 250 pieces Blue Lion at \$6.05, 200 pieces Gold Tiger at \$6.25. T-Cloths.—700 pieces Feather Brush Chop at \$2.10, 900 pieces 8 lbs. Stag Hunting at \$3.15, 600 pieces 8 lbs. Mex V. V. at \$3, 3,000 pieces 7 lbs. Mex Four Stags at \$3.32½, 3,000 pieces 7 lbs. Mex Silver Lion at \$1.93, 300 pieces Mex X X at \$3.07½, 300 pieces Mex V V at \$3.02½. Turkey Reds.—500 pieces 5 lbs. Flatman \$3.57½.

COTTON YARN.

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	72.00 to 102.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	109.00 to 116.00
" 22 to 24.....	112.00 to 117.00
" 28 to 32.....	123.00 to 127.00
" 38 to 42.....	131.00 to 138.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6lbs.....	1.75 to 1.85
7lbs.....	2.00 to 2.07½
8½ lbs.....	2.50 to 3.20
9 to 10 lbs.....	3.40 to 4.15
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.....	2.40 to 2.60
58 to 60 ".....	2.75 to 3.45
64 to 66 ".....	3.55 to 4.40
Fine.....	4.35 to 7.15
Book-folds.....	3.80 to 5.70
Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....	0.65 to 1.30
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y.....	1.55 to 1.75
7lbs. (32 ").....	1.90 to 2.15
6lbs. (32 ") Mexs.....	1.70 to 1.85
7lbs. (32 ").....	2.10 to 2.80
8 to 8½ oz. (36 in.).....	2.40 to 3.25
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ to 14lbs.....	3.75 to 5.15

FANCY COTTONS

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 7lbs.....	1.50 to 5.00
Broadens—Dyed.....	3.00 to 5.60
Danmarks.....	0.12 to 0.16
Chintzes—Assorted.....	0.08 to 0.14
Velvets—Black 22 in.....	0.20 to 0.45
Velveteens—18 in.....	0.17½ to 0.18½
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk.....	0.45 to 0.90

WOOLLENS

	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.....	0.51½ to 1.40
German.....	1.15 to 1.50
Habit, Med. and Broad Cloths.....	1.25 to 5.25
Long Ells—Scarlet.....	6.50 to 9.00
Assorted.....	6.60 to 9.10
Camlets—Assorted.....	12.50 to 32.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted.....	12.00 to 20.60
Orleans—Plain.....	7.00 to 8.50
Blankets—8 to 12lbs.....	5.50 to 14.00

METALS

	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod.....	4.20 to —
Square Flat Round Bar.....	4.20 to —
Swedish Bar.....	5.75 to —
Small Round Rod.....	4.60 to —
Hoop.....	5.50 to —
Old Wire Rope.....	1.50 to 3.00
Wire 15/25.....	9.25 to —
Lead, L. B. and Hole Chop.....	8.65 to —
Australian.....	8.60 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz.....	32.00 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.....	31.00 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.....	31.00 to —
Composition Nails.....	— to —
Japan Copper, Slabs.....	35.00 to —
Tiles.....	29.00 to —
Tin.....	— to —
Tin-Plates.....	6.10 to —
Steel ½ to ¾.....	5.50 to —

SUNDRIES

	per picul
Quicksilver.....	130.00 to —
Window Glass.....	4.35 to —
Kerosene Oil.....	1.89 to —

SHANGHAI, 16th April.—(From Messrs. No. 1, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report).—We are, this week, unable to report any appreciable alteration since our last issue, although in some quarters we hear that dealers are more inclined to offer at slightly weaker rates and that several lines of considerable extent have been submitted to Manchester on that basis only to be refused. The reason given for this renewal in enquiry appears to emanate from the Tientsin and Newchwang dealers, who have received during the week more favourable news of these markets, but so far the only goods that have been acquired are some parcels of Heavy Grey Shirtings and American Shirtings; holders apparently refusing to continue selling at the prices offered. The trade is still feeling acutely the extremely bad period dealers had to pass through during the latter part of last year and an indication of this is given by the almost entire absence for some time now of definite business on account of the merchants, but this in a way was to be

expected when one considers the trying times that had to be gone through. Advice from the various outports are better and clearances to every dependency are satisfactory, while a few lines of 8.4 lbs. Grey Shirtings have been quietly taken off the market for Ningpo. There is no political news beyond the voluntary opening of Woosung by the Chinese authorities as a Treaty Port. This will not affect the Trade much in the meantime, as far as buyers are concerned, but it may, in time, considerably affect the shipping interests as far as forwarding goods to the North is concerned. The firmness in the Manchester market has again prevented much forward business being done, many offers at a decline on former quotations having been refused.

METALS, 18th March.—(From Messrs. Alex. Bickfield & Co.'s Report).—Metals have been rather flat, though, as will be seen by the contracts quoted below, a few good orders have been closed. A marked feature is the very moderate demand that is shown for Lead, hundreds taking the place of thousands in anticipation of the Hankow tea season which is significant. The following shows the business done:—200 tons Goffins Nailrods at 126s. c.i.f., 500 boxes Bamboo Steel "Double-horse" £12.0.0, c.i.f., 250 boxes Corrugated Iron, 24/26 £12.0.0 c.i.f., 30 tons W. H. Remelted Spelter at 11s 9 50 to 11s 10.00 per picul, 200 tons L.B. Lead £13.15.0, c.i.f., 200 tons Australian Lead at 11s 6.95 per picul, 500 boxes Tin Plates at 10s. 10d., c.i.f., 500 boxes Nickel at 11s 6.75.0, 50 cases Yellow Metal Sheathings £17.0.0, c.i.f., 50 tons Hard Spelter £17.10.0 c.i.f., 100 tons London Horse-shoes at 89s. 6d. c.i.f.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 22nd April.—A dull market and declining rates are the chief features of an uneventful week. Tightness of money seems to be the chief cause for the almost total cessation of business, but several minor ones have also had an effect on the market.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have changed hands during the week at 189, 188, and 187 per cent. prem. in small lots, the market closing quiet at 186 per cent. prem. Nationals unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have been negotiated at \$63 and \$63½ for cash and at equivalent rates forward. Unions have improved to \$225 after sales at \$222½ and close with a few small lots obtainable at latter rate. Cantons have been enquired for at \$137½ without leading to business. Straits continue weak and neglected at \$12. North Chinas and Yangtzes unchanged and without business at quotations.

FIRE INSURANCES.—The market continues neglected with sellers of Hongkongs at \$232½ and Chinas at \$98 and no business to report.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao have ruled steady with a small business at \$27½ and \$27, closing with sellers at \$27½. Indo-Chinas have declined to \$61½ after small sales at \$63 and \$62½ and at \$63 for May and \$64 for June. Douglases have found buyers at \$58, \$58½, and \$59, closing with sellers at the last rate. China Manilas continue on offer at \$81 without business. China Mutuals are wanted in a small way at quotations.

REFINERIES.—The market has been almost totally neglected, small sales of China Sugars at 167 cash being all the business of the week. Luzons continue on offer at \$36 without bringing out buyers.

MINING.—Punjoms have ruled weak with small sales at \$6 and \$5½. Charbonnages, Jelebus, Olivers, and Balmorals unchanged but on offer during the week at quotations. Raubs have declined to \$28 after small sales at \$29 and \$28½, closing with sellers at \$28.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled quiet with sellers at \$255 and \$254 and no business. Kowloon Wharves continue neglected and without business at \$56½. Wanchais have been in a small demand at \$41 and have changed hands at that.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue on offer at \$73 without sales. Hotels have ruled quiet with sellers at \$54. Humphreys have improved to \$8½ with fair sales, and West Points have changed hands at \$20 and Kowloon Lands at \$17.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands (New issue) have changed hands at \$12½ and old issue at \$28, both closing steady at these rates.

Watsons, Electrics, and Campbell and Moores have changed hands at quotations. Other stocks under this heading remain unchanged and without business.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		[\$357.50, sellers]
Hongkong & Shanghai...	\$125	186 1/2 prem=
China & Japan, prf.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary...	£4	nominal
Do. deferred...	£1	£5.5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$19
Founders Shares...	£1	\$19
Bell's Asbestos E. A. ...	£1	nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$8.75, buyers
China Sugar	\$100	\$160, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 100
Hongkong	\$40	2 1/2, sales
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 112
Laon Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 104
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 520
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 93
Dairy Farm Co.	\$	\$1
Penwick & Co., Geo. ...	\$25	\$30, buyers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$28, sellers
Do. New Issue...	\$24	\$12, buyers
H. & China Bakery	\$50	\$33
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$125
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$9, sales & sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$10, sale
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$54, sales & buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$107, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G...	\$50	\$56, sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$164, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	253 p. ct. prem.=
Insurances—		[\$141.25]
Canton	\$50	\$137, sal. & buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$98, sales & sellers
China Traders'	\$25	\$63, sal. & sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$33, sellers
North-China	£25	Tls. 200, buyers
Straits	\$20	\$12, sellers
Union	\$50	\$22, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$14, sellers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment.	\$50	\$73, sellers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$8, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$17, sellers
West Point Building	\$40	\$20, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$34, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$137, sellers
Great E. & Cdonian	\$1	\$5, sellers
Do. Do.	\$2	\$2.50, sellers
Jebeu	\$5	\$1
New Balmoral	\$1	\$1.20, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1.30, sellers
Oliver's Mines, A. ...	\$5	\$18, sellers
Do. B. ...	\$2	\$1, sellers
Punjom	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$1.70, sales
Raubs	14s. 10d.	\$28, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$10	\$1, buyers
Steamship Coy.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$81, sellers
China Mutual Ord...	£10	£7 10s., buyers
Do. Preference...	£10	£5 5s., buyers
Do. Do.	£5	£2 12s. 6d., buyers
Douglas S. S. Co. ...	\$50	\$59, sales & sellers
H., Canton and M...	\$15	\$27, sales & sellers
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	\$6, sales
Tebrau Planting Co. ...	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do.	\$2	\$3, sellers
United Asbestos	\$2	\$1.40, buyers
Do.	\$10	\$10, nominal
Wanchai Wareh'se Co.	\$37	\$41, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$12, sales & seller.

J. V. Y. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 18th April.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report)—Tightness of money both here and in Hongkong has restricted business this week. The unsettled state of politics has checked business, more especially in bank shares. Banks.—Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.—But a small business has been done at 195 per cent. premium, and the market closes weak with sellers. W. quote 194 with sellers as the closing rate. Marine Insurance.—North-China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Shares have been placed at Tls. 198 and 200. Yangtze Insurance shares were sold at \$140. Straits Insurance Co., Ltd.—Shares were forced off at \$11 and \$12. Holders now ask \$124. Fire Insurance.—No business to report. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. shares have been placed at Tls. 48 cash and Tls. 48 for the 30th current. There are cash sellers. Sugar Companies.—No business reported. Hongkong quotes sellers of China Sugar Refining shares at \$168. Mining.

—Raub Australian Gold Mining shares were placed to Hongkong at \$29, and at \$29 1/2 for the 30th current. Oliver's Freehold Mine shares, issue B, were placed locally at \$6. Docks, Wharves & Godowns.—Boyd & Co. shares are offering at Tls. 200. Shanghai Dock shares were placed at Tls. 82/81 cash. Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf shares were sold at Tls. 120 and Tls. 119 for the 31st May. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares were placed at Tls. 92 1/2, Tls. 91, and Tls. 90. Humphreys Estate & Finance shares were placed locally at \$9 and \$9.25. Industrial.—Cotton Mill Shares.—E-wos were placed at Tls. 101 and are wanted. Internationals at Tls. 112, both cash and for the 30th current. Laon-Kung Mows at Tls. 104, and Soy Chees at Tls. 512 1/2 and Tls. 520. China Flour Mill shares were placed at Tls. 55 cash and Tls. 60 for the 30th current, cum the new issue, and Shanghai Ice shares at Tls. 117. Tug and Cargo. Boats.—Shanghai Cargo Boat shares were placed at Tls. 180. Co-Operative shares are offering at Tls. 165. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares changed hands at Tls. 88 cash and Tls. 96 for August. Shanghai Langkat Tobacco shares were placed at Tls. 295 cash, Tls. 305 for the 30th April, Tls. 320 for the 31st May, and Tls. 340 for the 30th June. Shanghai Horse Bazaar shares changed hands at Tls. 74, J. Llewellyn & Co. shares at \$60, Hall & Holtz shares at \$11 1/2, and Central Stores at \$10. Green Island Cement shares were resold to Hongkong at \$28.

Quotations are:—

BANKS

Hongkong and Shanghai—\$367.50.
Bank of China and Japan, defd.—£55.0
Do. ordinary—Nominal.
National Bank of China, Ltd.—\$18.50.

COTTON MILLS

Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 101.00.
Hongkong Cotton S. W. & D. Co.—31.00.
International Cotton Man. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 112.00.
Laon-kung-mow Cotton Co., Ltd.—Tls. 104.00.
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Co., Ltd.—Tls. 520.00.

DOCKS, WHARVES, &c.

Boyd & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Nominal.
Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 197.50.
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf Company.—\$58.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.—\$437 1/2.
S. C. Farham & Co.—Tls. 173.00.
Shanghai Engineering S. & D. Co.—Tls. 81.00.
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 118.00.

INSURANCES

Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$130.
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$99.
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$65.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$337 1/2.
North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 200.00.
Straits Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$12.
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.—\$225.
Yangtze Insurance Assocn., Ltd.—\$140.

LANDS

Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$74.
Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Ltd.—\$9.
Shanghai Land Invest. Co. (fully pd.)—Tls. 90.00.

MINING

Punjom Mining Co., Ltd.—\$6.25.
Punjom Mining Co., Ltd., pref. shares.—\$1.80.
Raub Australian Gold Mining Co., Ltd.—\$294.
Sheridan Consolidated Co.—Tls. 2.50.

SHIPPING

China Mutual preference.—Tls. 60.00.
Do. ordinary, £1 paid.—Tls. 26.
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 165.00.
Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$59.
Hongkong, Canton and Macao.—\$27.
Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 43.00.
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 100.00.
Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ltd.—Tls. 210.00.
Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—Tls. 110.00.

SUGAR

China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$168.
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$40.
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 39.00.

MISCELLANEOUS

American Cigarette Co.—Tls. 94.00.
Central Stores, Ltd.—\$10.
China Flour Mills Co.—Tls. 58.00.
Hall & Holtz, Ltd.—\$42.00.
Llewellyn & Co., J., Limited.—\$60.00.
Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 35.60.
Shanghai Feather Cleaning Co.—Tls. 500.00.
Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 215.00.
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 74.00.
Shanghai Ice Company.—Tls. 117.00.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 295.00.
Do. New Issue.—Nominal.
Shanghai Rice Mills Co.—Tls. 30.00.
Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 88.00.
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 305.00.
Watson Co., A. S., Limited.—\$12.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 22nd April.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/10 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10 3/4
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.34 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.38 1/2
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	1.89
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	44 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	46 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	137 1/2
Bank, on demand	138 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	137 1/2
Bank, on demand	138 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	74 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	75
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	8 % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	1 1/2 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 1/2 % pm.
SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate	10.67
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	55.75

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 18th April (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report).—The principal feature of interest in our homeward freight market has been the renewal of the Conference agreement for London, etc., for a further period of one year on terms similar to those of recent years. The tariff list has been revised, new rates fixed being nearly the same as those now current, an additional 5s. per ton being imposed on tea. Coastwise:—From Newchwang to Japan and the south excellent rates have been procured, while from Saigon and Hongkong to Japan an equally remunerative business has been done. Rates of freight are:—London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 35s.; waste silk 37s. 6d.; tea 4s.; Northern Continental ports, by Conference Lines, general cargo 35s.; waste silk 37s. 6d.; tea 40s.; New York via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 42s. 6d.; waste silk 45s.; tea 47s. 6d.; Baltimore via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Konigsberg via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 42s. 6d.; waste silk 45s.; tea 47s. 6d.; Manchester, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Liverpool, by Conference Lines, general cargo 42s. 6d.; waste silk 45s.; tea 47s. 6d.; Hamburg, by Conference Lines, general cargo 35s.; waste silk 37s. 6d.; tea 40s. Above rates are subject to a deferred rebate, as per Conference circular. Havre, by Conference Lines, tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 32s. 6d. net, waste silk 35s. net, tea 37s. 6d. net; Genoa, by Conference Lines, tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 32s. 6d. net, waste silk 35s. net, tea 37s. 6d. net; Marseilles, by Conference Lines, tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 32s. 6d. net, waste silk 35s. net, tea 37s. 6d. net. 35s. per ton of 20 cwt. for above three ports. New York, by sail, 19s. New York via Pacific, 1 1/2 gold cents per lb. tea, 3 cents per lb. silk, \$9 per ton strawbraid. New York via Suez, 27s. 6d. per ton tea and general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric. Boston, 35s. per ton tea and general cargo; 10s. extra for Turmeric. Philadelphia, 35s. per ton tea and general cargo; 10s. extra for Turmeric. Coast rates.—Mojito to Shanghai \$2 per ton coal; Nagasaki to Shanghai \$2 per ton coal; Newchwang to Kobe 33 sen; Newchwang to Swatow 33 cents; Newchwang to Canton 38 cents; Wuhu to Canton 25 cents.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Manila (str.), Teucer (str.)
Glaucus (str.), Formosa (str.), Verona (str.)
For SAN FRANCISCO.—China (str.), Imberhorne, Belgic (str.)
For NEW YORK.—Lennox (str.), Queen Margaret (str.), St. David.
For VANCOUVER.—Empress of India (str.)
For BREMEN.—Prince Heinrich (str.)
For PORTLAND.—Argyll (str.)
For AUSTRALIA.—Guthrie (str.)
For MARSEILLES.—Tamba Maru (str.), Ernest Simons (str.)
For VICTORIA.—Victoria (str.)

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.
HONGKONG.

April—

ARRIVALS.

- 15, Singapore, British str., from Bangkok.
- 16, Coromandel, British str., from Bombay.
- 16, Cheang Hook Kian, Brit. str., from S'pore.
- 16, Afridi, British str., from Liverpool.
- 16, Ulysses, British str., from Singapore.
- 16, Amigo, German str., from Haiphong.
- 16, Chwanshan, British str., from Bangkok.
- 16, Dean, British str., from Bangkok.
- 16, Glenshiel, British str., from Amoy.
- 16, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 16, Konoura Maru, Jap. str., from Karatsu.
- 16, Kweiyang, British str., from Hongay.
- 16, Tritos, German str., from Saigon.
- 16, Triumph, German str., from Haiphong.
- 17, Ariel, Norwegian str., from Chefoo.
- 17, Astrid, Norwegian str., from Moji.
- 17, Formosa, British str., from Swatow.
- 17, Hansa, German str., from Saigon.
- 17, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
- 17, Miike Maru, Japanese str., from Y'hama.
- 17, Mongkut, British str., from Saigon.
- 17, McCulloch, Amr. gbt., from Singapore.
- 17, Choysang, British str., from Canton.
- 17, Hanchow, British str., from Canton.
- 17, Wosang, British str., from Saigon.
- 18, Hunan, British str., from Canton.
- 18, Decima, German str., from Saigon.
- 18, Kiangnan, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 18, Teresa, British str., from Straits.
- 18, Chihli, British str., from Chefoo.
- 18, Glenartney, British str., from London.
- 18, Kinai Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 18, Sishan, British str., from Saigon.
- 18, Propontis, British str., from Kobe.
- 18, Evandale, British str., from Rangoon.
- 18, Brindisi, British str., from Bombay.
- 19, Hermes, Norwegian str., from Canton.
- 19, Carberus, British str., from Bangkok.
- 19, Phaa C. C. Klao, Brit. str., from Bangkok.
- 19, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
- 19, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
- 19, Rio, German str., from Saigon.
- 19, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
- 19, Else, German str., from Bangkok.
- 19, Progress, German str., from Chefoo.
- 19, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
- 20, Empress of India, Brit. str., from V'conver.
- 20, Merionethshire, Brit. str., from S'pore.
- 20, China, German str., from Saigon.
- 20, Chingtu, British str., from Sydney.
- 20, Chittagong, British str., from Batoum.
- 20, Oanfa, British str., from Bangkok.
- 20, Sanuki Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
- 20, Bellona, German str., from Hamburg.
- 20, Sullburg, German str., from Chefoo.
- 21, Peiyang, German str., from Chinkiang.
- 21, Kong Alf, British str., from Bangkok.
- 21, Fooksang, British str., from Canton.
- 21, Cheangchow, British str., from Singapore.
- 21, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 21, Amara, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
- 21, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 21, Devawongse, British str., from Bangkok.
- 21, China, Hawaiian str., from S. Francisco.
- 22, Ernest Simons, Fr. str., from Shanghai.
- 22, Guthrie, British str., from Kobe.
- 22, Haimun, British str., from Amoy.
- 22, Omi Maru, Jap. str., from Melbourne.
- 22, Wally, German str., from Moji.
- 22, Baltimore, U.S. cruiser, from Yokohama.

April—

DEPARTURES.

- 16, Clara, German str., for Hoihow.
- 16, Haitan, French str., for Hoihow.
- 16, Ask, Danish str., for Haiphong.
- 16, Boynton, British str., for Kobe.
- 16, Chelydra, British str., for Calcutta.
- 16, Chusan, British str., for Enrope.
- 16, Deucalion, British str., for Sandakan.
- 16, Gisela, Austrian str., for Trieste.
- 16, Pronto, German str., for Kobe.
- 17, Activ, Danish str., for Bangkok.
- 17, Chowtai, British str., for Bangkok.
- 17, Coromandel, British str., for Shanghai.
- 17, Framnes, Norw. str., for Bangkok.
- 17, Germania, German str., for Kobe.
- 17, Glengarry, British str., for Kobe.
- 17, Kong Beng, British str., for Yokohama.
- 17, Nanyang, German str., for Swatow.
- 17, Rohilla, British str., for Yokohama.
- 17, Trieste, Austrian str., for Kobe.
- 17, Trocas, British str., for Shanghai.

- 17, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 18, Canton, British str., for Shanghai.
- 18, C. H. Kian, British str., for Amoy.
- 18, Kiangnan, Chinese str., for Swatow.
- 18, Chihli, British str., for Canton.
- 19, Kweiyang, British str., for Hongay.
- 19, Ulysses, British str., for Shanghai.
- 19, Formosa, British str., for Amoy.
- 19, Hunan, British str., for Takao.
- 19, Choysang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 19, Dorio, British str., for San Francisco.
- 19, Evandale, British str., for Yokohama.
- 19, Glenshiel, British str., for London.
- 19, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
- 19, Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
- 19, Hong Leong, British str., for Amoy.
- 19, Jason, British str., for Amoy.
- 19, Miike Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
- 19, Oslo, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
- 19, Phra Nang, Brit. str., for Bangkok.
- 19, Tacoma, British str., for Tacoma.
- 20, Konoura Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
- 20, Tamarind, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
- 20, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
- 20, Amigo, German str., for Saigon.
- 20, Wongkoi, British str., for Bangkok.
- 20, Afridi, British str., for Shanghai.
- 20, Elphinstone, British str., for Saigon.
- 20, Loosok, British str., for Bangkok.
- 20, Mongkut, British str., for Saigon.
- 20, Singapore, British str., for Bangkok.
- 20, Teresa, British str., for Singapore.
- 20, Tritos, German str., for Saigon.
- 20, Zweena, British str., for Yokohama.
- 20, Vladimir Monomach, Rus. cr., for Japan.
- 21, Pronto, German str., for Kobe.
- 21, Chittagong, British str., for Amoy.
- 21, Progress, German str., for Canton.
- 21, Astrid, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
- 21, Dean, British str., for Bangkok.
- 21, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
- 21, Letimbro, Italian str., for Bombay.
- 21, Tamsui Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
- 21, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 21, Peiyang, German str., for Canton.
- 22, Sanuki Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
- 22, Kinai Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
- 22, Hermes, Norw. str., for Yokohama.
- 22, Sishan, British str., for Swatow.
- 22, Mathilde, German str., for Hoihow.
- 22, Hupeh, British str., for Yokohama.
- 22, Sabine Rickmers, German str., for Amoy.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

- Per *Sungkiang*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Wookey and family, Messrs. A. Kellar and Burton.
- Per *Tacoma*, from Victoria, B.C., Misses Landis, Prentice and Miller, and Mr. G. R. Edwards.
- Per *Loosok*, from Bangkok, Mr. Nurenhansen.
- Per *Chusan*, from Shanghai for Hongkong, Mr. G. Willer, Miss W. Ross, Mr. McMorro; for Brindisi, Messrs. W. Nebel and G. Rizzardi; for Marseilles, Comdr. Kepper Wade, R.N.; for London, Mr. F. de St. Croix, Dr. and Mrs. Brander and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Rudland, Misses Rudland and G. K. Rudland, and Mrs. H. Berg.
- Per *Canton*, from London for Hongkong, Miss Eastmond, and Dr. Harston; for Shanghai, Mrs. Mayne, and Miss Grattan; for Yokohama, Mr. J. Gardiner; from Penang for Yokohama, Major Bent.
- Per *Coromandel*, for Hongkong, from London, Mr. A. W. Gibb, Commander W. W. Smythe, Mr. and Mrs. Koosuetzoff and children, Col. Sergeant and Mrs. J. Holshaw and child and Mr. A. Terret; from Bombay, Rev. G. Carroll, Messrs. Ah Cheok and J. M. Sethna; from Colombo, Messrs. A. McConachie and J. E. Swinton; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. F. Billings, Misses Billings and maid, Messrs. J. P. W. Stewart, H. N. Tuck, Freeman, Kruger and Ming Tek, and Gunner J. W. Cargill. For Shanghai, from London, Messrs. W. P. Thomas, R. T. Tebbitt, J. T. Pratt, L. G. C. Graham, G. W. W. Pearson, H. Phillips, R. J. Cubitt and W. P. M. Russell; from Brindisi, Messrs. K. Hemeling, R. Lilly and R. Berg; from Ismailia, Rev. W. H. Pott; from Bombay, Miss Johnson, Mrs. Lamont and Major Cumberland; from

Singapore, Mr. H. Schwarzenburg. For Yokohama, from London, Mr. E. W. Hedley; from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Robertson and Mr. A. G. Campbell; from Ismailia, Mr. R. R. Bowker.

Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Mr. B. S. Mehta, and Mrs. C. Focken and children.

Per *Miike Maru*, from Yokohama, Mr. David Rees.

Per *Teresa*, from Singapore, Messrs. W. Cole Baker, J. Gordon, and J. W. Ker.

Per *Hailoong*, from Tamsui, &c., Mr. Arthur.

Per *Yuensang*, from Manila, Mrs. M. S. Alliston and 2 children, Messrs. Maria Romana, Guadalupe Carrilio and Adela Flores.

Per *Lightning*, from Calcutta, &c., Messrs. Gregory, Mitchell, Mrs. Batonaw, Mr. and Mrs. Addis, Mrs. Belson, Lieut. Eardley Wilmot.

Per *Empress of India*, for Hongkong, from Vancouver, Messrs. E. Thomas, H. F. Reynolds and Capt. J. H. Laurie; from Yokohama, Mr. Waliram; from Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. Yee Woo and Mr. E. Brockelmann; from Shanghai, Messrs. J. Jebson, H. G. Wagatt and F. Grafton.

Per *Mathilde*, from Haiphong, &c., Madame Ivanoff.

Per *China* from San Francisco, &c., Mrs. L. A. Beach, Mrs. N. E. Irwin, Mrs. S. S. Freeman, Messrs. M. M. Essabhy and son, H. D. Hawkes, H. Sutherland and J. L. Stickney, Capt. B. P. Lamberon, Mr. and Mrs. S. B. McNear, Misses E. Halstead and Irwin, and 203 Chinese.

DEPARTED.

Per *Chusan*, from Hongkong for Singapore, Messrs. P. Lewis and R. Gutierrez; for Bombay, Mr. F. Rahim, Rev. M. X. Alvares, Messrs. P. M. Abdoola, A. de Mascarenhas, and W. M. Davis; for Gibraltar, Capt. A. Crawford; for Brindisi, Mr. and Mrs. Palmer, and Mr. P. A. Barlow; for Marseilles, Mr. J. Naismith; for London, Messrs. Wm. J. Blackhall, H. Benley, E. A. Ram, Dr. R. L. Bliss, Rev. and Mrs. G. M. Gardiner and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Brooks and child; from Yokohama for Bombay, Mr. N. M. Hassan; for London, Messrs. C. Freeman, J. W. Shepherd, and Mrs. T. W. Hammond; from Kobe for Colombo, Mr. A. J. Battle; from Shanghai for Brindisi, Messrs. W. Nebel and G. Rizzardi; for Marseilles, Comdr. Kepper Wade, R.N.; for London, Mr. F. de St. Croix, Dr. and Mrs. Brander and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Rudland, Misses Rudland and G. K. Rudland, Mr. and Mrs. Lord, Mrs. H. Berg, and Mr. Berner.

Per *Gisela*, for Singapore, Mr. Th. Nundiram for Trieste, Mrs. Fanny Hilton and daughter and Mr. J. Landesberg.

Per *Rohilla*, from Hongkong for Nagasaki, Mr. and Mrs. Budgett; for Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. C. Hertz, Messrs. A. E. Bates, F. Beaumont H. Lyons, and J. Knowles; for Yokohama, Mr. F. Dore; for Yokohama from London, Mr. E. W. Hedley; from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Robertson, and Mr. A. G. Campbell; from Ismailia, Mr. R. R. Bowker; for Bombay, Major Cumberland.

Per *Dorio*, for Shanghai, Messrs. Jas. McKie, J. H. Lewis, P. A. Cox, Lieut. P. G. Davis, R.A., Mr. and Mrs. Elster, Miss Ransome, Messrs. Geo. Ormsby, C. T. Robinson, Asst.-Pay. W. J. Bull, R.N., Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Carniero and infant, Messrs. H. N. Tuck, Geo. Salinger, Victor Schmidt, A. Wilkes, See Lin, Mr. and Mrs. V. Faga, Messrs. C. L. Burton, A. Lammon, and Lai Haig Yin; for Nagasaki, Mr. J. H. Hewson, Mrs. Osetu; for Kobe, Miss Cumming, Miss G. Cumming; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Bellamy Brown, Miss F. Linwood, Mrs. Henry and child, Mr. Leong Wai Hong, Miss Julia V. A. Henry, Mr. Claud McCurdy, Miss Emma Winstanley, Mrs. Bertram and child; for Honolulu, Messrs. Hing Cheong and Hong Tong; for San Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Valentine, Mrs. Chas. Gardner, Miss E. C. Lukons, Mr. Toy Jung Sing, Rev. G. Carroll, Mrs. Mak Kum, and Mrs. Toy Tan Quai; for Victoria, Mr. T. W. Kruger; for New York, Mr. G. Brockman; for London, Messrs. F. A. Carl and T. S. Nightingale.

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